

Boy dates girl

Question and Answer Book

By Gay Head





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By GAY HEAD • Illustrated by Katherine Tracy

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SCHOLASTIC CORPORATION • NEW YORK

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Foreword

Boy dates Girl—in this day and age, in your life at home or school, those words are important.

Boy dates Girl isn't an isolated incident. Your whole public and private life is involved. Before you arrive at the happy moment when the Boy dates the Girl, you have to conquer a dozen other obstacles. You must be a girl who gets along with other girls. You must be a boy who can keep feelings unruffled in the family circle. You need "know how" in school activities before you can successfully meet *the* boy or *the* girl on a person-to-person basis.

Those three words, Boy dates Girl, can run into hundreds of questions. In this book we tackle those you've asked most often. We look at your individual problems: Which is the salad fork? Is it all right to "dutch date"? And we dig into basic issues: What makes a successful person? What makes a successful party?

This book has been compiled from the "Boy dates Girl" columns that have appeared in *Senior Scholastic* and from the questions you and your friends have asked in student assemblies and discussion groups.

Naturally, there are many questions that we haven't answered. No one book could cover all the snags in the B.d.G. whirl. Any unfinished business will be dealt with in "Boy dates Girl" which now runs every week in *Senior Scholastic* and *Practical English*.—GAY HEAD.



It's a Date!

Chapter I

THE ASKING

Q. *What is the correct way for a boy to go about asking a girl for a date?*

A. You've known her casually for years or perhaps you've just met her. She's the girl-across-the-aisle or the friend of a friend. The point is, you've suddenly realized that she's date bait! You like her smile, the way she wears her clothes, and the twinkle in her eyes. You want to ask her for a date — and get it! But how to go about it?

Just as a straight line is the shortest distance between two points, so a straight question is the shortest and surest way of getting a date. "Guess who this is?" (over the phone) or "Whatcha doin' one of these first nights?" may be some boys' idea of a cagey approach, but girls say it's strictly off-the-cob. Don't beat about the cornfield! Go straight to the point: "How about a date Friday night?" That's all, unless you have some special entertainment in mind. If so, tell her in advance. She'll be a much better bowling or skating date, if she dresses down in saddle shoes rather than up in high heels.

Q. *How can I get a certain boy to ask me for a date? He seems to like me, but he's bashful.*

A. You can't put the words in his mouth, but there may be ways you can help a bashful boy overcome his bashfulness. Boys seldom go for a man-chaser and they often shy away from a girl who poses indifference. The idea is

to strike a happy medium. Show your friendliness with a smile and a "Hiya?" whenever you see him. Don't be afraid to start a conversation with him but, once you've started a conversation, try to keep it on subjects of interest to him. Don't "show off" your own knowledge or pose as "Miss Popularity Plus." Show him by your friendliness and interest that you'd like to be friendlier. And, if you have (or can make) the opportunity to invite him to your home, *along with others his age*, you may be giving him the break he needs — and wants, but is too bashful to ask for.

Q. *There's a girl in my school whom I'd like to date, although I've never really talked to her. My friends say I should just go over to her and ask her for a date. But I don't think that's the right way of doing it. What should I do?*

A. Think up some way to start a conversation with her. You don't have to have a coming-out party to meet people you go to school with every day and no one is going to wrinkle an eyebrow if you turn to a schoolmate, walking out of class or down the corridor, and say, "Did you get that reading assignment?" or "I hear you're interested in dramatics. Are you going out for the Spring play?" It's a good idea to find out (by questions such as these) what mutual interests you have, before you ask her for a date. All you know, so far, is that you like her looks and manner, neither of which is sure proof that you two will click on a date. If, after several conversations, you still "go" for her, then ask her for a date — *at home!* Even if she's convinced that you're the right sort of guy, her parents don't know you from Boris Karloff — yet!

Q. *How does a boy get started in dating? Does he start immediately on "real dates" (I mean dance dates and such, not just to the movies) or does he get acquainted first and then work up to "real dates"?*

A. You've waked up to the fact that girls aren't just so much wallpaper. You've decided you ought to *do something* about this dating business. You're steamed up, but your self-starter won't work!



What happens to Tongue-Tied Tom?

Okay, then take it easy. Don't try to be a Smooth Sam on the first round. Don't run the risk of being self-conscious and tongue-tied because you tried to know all the answers at once.

Get acquainted with the girls you see every day at school. Start a conversation with some of them on school subjects — not a lengthy discussion of atomic energy, but a brief, casual conversation on school activities: the basketball team's chances for the season, the next school play, or last week's assembly program. If you start on "home base" (subjects of mutual interest), you'll find that you can easily branch out. Your mention of the school basketball team could lead to your telling her (or her telling you) about a cousin who is the star of a college team. "The next school play" could lead to a discussion of likes and dislikes in movies — "last week's assembly program" to last night's Kostelanetz radio show or Spotlight Bands.

Learning to start a conversation is the first and biggest hurdle in dating. Once you're over it, you shouldn't be self-conscious about asking a girl for a "small date" (to have a soda or walk home with her after the school play) or a group date (go along with a group of girls and boys to a basketball game or the movies).

And, once you've gotten used to the idea of squiring a girl around, you'll be ready to ask her for a "real date." Meanwhile, bone up on conversational topics and *learn to dance*. Dancing may not be your favorite sport, but it's the most popular pastime among girls and the easiest way to meet people.

Wherever you go to school, there are plenty of "nice girls" within talking distance. The classroom isn't a place for socializing, but school clubs and group activities are. Join them! Participate in every school activity that, you can.



The story begins — Boy dates Girl!

Church and "Y" groups are also good places to meet people, but you don't have to go farther than the next desk to get acquainted."

THE ACCEPTING

Q. *How should a girl accept a date?*

A. A boy's straight-line question deserves a straight-line answer: "Okay, it's a date!" No maybes or I'll-let-you-knows, unless one of your "house rules" is parental permission for dates. If so, it's better to tell him the real reason for your indecision than to let him think you're stalling for better pickings! "I'd love to, Bill, but I'll have to check with my mother first. May I let you know Friday?" sounds much more convincing and complimentary than, "Well, er — uh, you see — uh, maybe — I — guess I'll have to let you know." Doesn't it?

And don't forget D-Day, when you show up with the answer! If you want — hope — and pray for advance invitations from boys, then the least you can do is your part *on time*.

Q. *How can a girl refuse a date without hurting a boy's feelings?*

A. "I'm sorry. I have a date for that night," is the way to refuse a date, if you already have one. The only other non-skid refusal to a date is, "I'm sorry. I have other plans." If you'll stick to that story and not add tall tales about "a splitting headache" or "a term paper," you'll never hurt anyone's feelings. "Other plans" can mean anything from dinner at the Ritz to sitting at home and twiddling your thumbs. Hurt feelings come from finding out that your "splitting headache" or your "term paper" wears cords and a snazzy sports coat!

Q. *If a boy you like asks you for a date and you have to refuse, how can you get him to ask you again?*

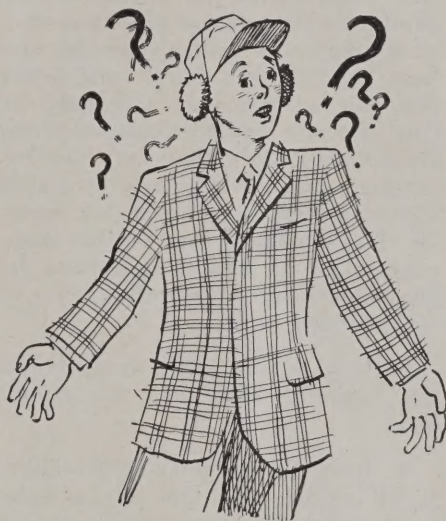
A. When you refuse, you might say, "I'm sorry but I'm busy that night. I hope you'll ask me again." Or if you simply can't bear the suspense, you might add, "How about some other night?" Don't blame the boy, though, if he doesn't leap at your suggestion. Most boys dislike being pinned down, even by pin-ups!

Q. *Is it all right to turn down a date*

to a school party when you are sure someone you like better is going to ask you?

A. The question is: *how* sure are you that the light of your life is going to ask you? He doesn't seem to be knocking himself out to sew up his date for the party. The other boys are already on the alert, tracking down their gals. Either the Number One Man doesn't care very much or else he's pretty sure of himself. Whichever it is, he might take a hint if you proceeded on the theory of "first come, first served."

Waiting around for that *special* invite is a gamble. A man on the phone is worth three in your dreams. Most girls prefer to play it safe if the party in question is an important occasion.



Ready and rarin' to date—but how does a guy get off to a good start?

But if you don't mind gambling — and losing — then go ahead and turn down five invitations in hopes the right one will come along. Only be *sure* the best man wins. Maybe this lad with the early invite has a heart just as handsome as the one you're wearing on your sleeve.

Q. *Should a girl accept a date if she's asked just a few hours before the affair?*

A. There's no law against it. Most boys prefer to have their plans mapped out in advance. Most boys don't procrastinate without reason. Ted may discover at the last minute that he doesn't have to work late, after all. Jack's date may break out with measles the afternoon of the prom. Bart's family may suddenly decide not to go away for the week-end. In such situations you can afford to be understanding. Don't let

false pride stand in the way of what might be a gay time for all concerned.

Of course, a really thoughtful boy will apologize for "late" invitations and he won't make a habit of them. If you're a "good sport" when his schedule is jammed up, you ought to rate first attention when the going is smooth.

Q. *What can you do about a boy who continually calls up for a date at the last minute?*

A. There's only one *sure* cure. Be busy the next time it happens — even if busy means sitting at home knitting a sock for your brother's birthday. You don't have to explain about the socks. All you have to say is — "Sorry. Other plans." You don't have to be rude. You don't have to be curt. The tone of your voice can be most friendly. Unless his head is a chunk of wood, he'll get the idea that you really would have liked the date — if you'd only known earlier.

THE FOLLOW-THROUGH

Q. *What does a fellow do when his date doesn't meet him at the door and he's stuck with her family?*

A. You actually did it. You maneuvered a date with Katy Brackett, the smoothest piece of mechanism in school — Katy of the auburn hair, big blue eyes, and glorious smile. You don't know how you managed to get past the weak-kneed stage when your mouth felt like a bowl of dry cornflakes. But somehow you spouted the words, "Howsabout a date Friday night?" And Katy responded, "Okay, I'd love it."

You felt big-time. Practically atomic!

But now suddenly, as you're walking towards Katy's house, doubts assail you. Will you be able to carry off the evening in Big League style? Katy's a gal who knows the score. You're on first base now, but do you know how to chalk up a home run? This is one night when you want to be all hits and runs and *no* errors.

Second base, coming up! Take it in your stride. If Katy's as keen as her reputation, she'll take the ring of the doorbell as an S.O.S. But even if she fails you, there doesn't have to be an awkward situation.

You ring the doorbell. Bobby Brackett opens the door and stares at you blankly. You say, "Hello. I'm Jim Mor-

ton and I have a date with Katy." Bobby may or may not react favorably, but anyhow he'll let you in the door.

If Bobby's the only person in the living room, don't ignore him. He may seem trivial in your scheme of things, but he can be valuable, if you win him over to your side. Find out what grade he's in, what sports, reading, movies and radio he likes. Your conversation may lead to a practice football play on the living room floor but, if you can keep the crease in your pants and the shade on the floor lamp, chalk up one hit for your side.

But maybe it isn't Bobby in the living room. Maybe it's Mr. and Mrs. Brackett. Okay. You'll get more talk and less action, but your strategy is the same. Find out what they're interested in. They probably read the same newspapers your family do. Take off from there. Talk about local news, movies, radio programs, sports, or books. And don't be afraid of national and international events. You don't have to be an authority on any subject in order to broach it. Ask their opinions. They'll be flattered and, no doubt, full of answers. Many a good first impression has been made by one simple question: "What do you think about —?"

Now you're on second base with Katy's family. Enter Katy! On your feet double quick and wait until she's seated before you collapse! And don't let yourself drift into a dream world, gazing at Katy — or go into a slump, wondering how to get rid of the family. Continue the conversation you started with her parents. You have a date with Katy, but you can spend a few more minutes fortifying yourself with the family. At the same time you'll be building up your batting average with Katy and your chances of gaining special permissions will be doubled. You'll be repaid at some future date when Mrs. Brackett says, "Why, yes, I think you (Katy) can stay out later tonight, Jim's *such* a fine boy!"

Q. What can you talk about, if you don't know your date very well?

A. First conversations are a matter of discovering each other's interests. Make yours a question-and-answer period until you get on a firm footing of mutual interests. Don't think you have to rattle off wise-cracks like Bob Hope or sound like a movie hero. Your date is probably just as uncomfortable as you are.

What are your main interests? What are hers — or his? You can find out by asking. Or by watching the reaction

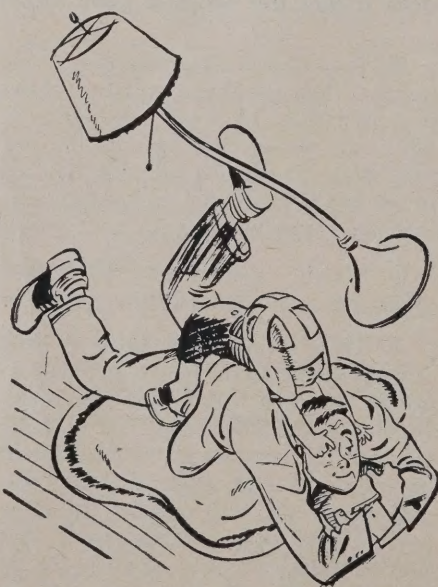
when you bring up a subject. But don't give up on the first try. "I'm keen on aviation — are you?" may produce nothing more than a blank stare. But, if you go on to the subject of name bands, you may discover that you're both Stan Kenton fans. Or you may find that you're in for a verbal bout defending your favorite. Good! Good argument equals good conversation.

The more varied your interests, the easier it will be for you to converse on different subjects with different people. Don't confine your reading of newspapers to the comics. Don't limit your radio listening to the Hit Parade. Spread your interests. They are the backbone of your conversation.

Steer clear of "tossing the bull" to impress Katy. Exaggerations that pass you off as a "big operator" may be momentarily effective, but the let-down is usually fatal to any future plans you may have. Better to start in neutral and have Katy find out you're even better than you say. When she accepted your date, she probably didn't expect Flash Gordon. It's likely that she's just expecting a nice guy who may be a little shy on the first date. If your "big operator" line should go over too big, Katy might clam up herself. And when she gets scared and stops talking, you're sunk, brother!

Q. Who is responsible for getting a girl home on time — the boy or his date?

A. Both. It's the girl's responsibility to tell her date what time she has to be home and the boy's responsibility to see that she gets there *on time*.



Getting on the good side of Bobby!

There's nothing shameful about confessing that you have to be in at a reasonable hour. (Thinking of his alarm clock set at 6 a.m., he may be relieved!) And it won't spoil the evening for you to announce the curfew hour when you leave the house. His evening's more likely to be spoiled if, later on, you suddenly shout: "Gosh, I was supposed to have been home *an hour ago!*"

That sort of home run won't give you a winning score.

Q. Is it up to the girl or the boy to say "thanks for a pleasant evening"?

A. Both. Any date is a 50-50 proposition, even if the boy usually shells out



Don't be an "alarmist" — too late.

the shekels. Don't be hesitant about saying you had a good time, but don't gush, as if you've never had a date before! Boys distrust super-superlatives (wouldn't you?); they like sincerity (don't you?).

Q. Is it okay for a girl to invite a boy to come back to her home?

A. It's *very* okay to let him know that he will be welcome, and "I hope you come again" is a natural follow-up to "I've had a swell time." But in the dating game of you-chase-me boys invariably prefer to do the chasing! They're leery of being made conspicuous; they steer clear of she-wolves. Don't put a stranger "on the spot," as solo guest for supper at your home. If you're entertaining a mixed group, then it's okay to include anyone you like on the guest list, provided your parents approve.

SPOT CASH MONEY

Q. How much should the average date cost? Isn't there some way of settling this question?

A. It's the high cost of dating that gets you down. You start the week, or the month, fairly well flushed financially. At least, you expect to eat regularly and have a few shekels to spend.

But, by the time you've had a few dates, your pocketbook has shrunk to



Fun at home base eases exchequer.

you rather have dates often or not-so-often? Answer this question; then fit your answer into your budget.

But don't think that money talks louder than anything else with girls. There are some girls who are gold-diggers, just as there are some boys who are spongers. But most girls would rather date an interesting person than a bulging pocketbook.

The guy who uses his pocketbook instead of his head won't rate long as an A-1 dater. A few girls are flattered by high-priced attention, but most of them would rather have thoughtfulness and consideration. The best-liked daters are the ones who "think up" interesting dates, who have several suggestions up their sleeves. Want some? In *Scholastic* Jam Session girls rated "listening to records" as their favorite entertainment. Second on their list was dancing, and many of these dance-lovers talked about "get-togethers" at someone's home. Other leading favorites were roller skating, bowling, swimming, and hiking.

Q. What can you do if your date's family clutter up the living room and you haven't enough money to take her out somewhere?

A. Grin and bear it and hope that your date's head works as well as her dimples! Almost any home has a date space, if *somebody* will find-it and fix-it. An unused basement or attic room can be transformed with a paint brush, needle and thread, and inexpensive materials. The dining room may not be exactly cozy, but a vic or radio can warm up the atmosphere considerably. And what's wrong with the kitchen? Cookie and fudge making aren't exciting, but they're better pastimes than

spending the evening with the family! It's a girl's responsibility to make her home "dateable" and any girl who shrugs off this responsibility is missing a sure road to popularity.

Q. How does a girl know how much her date can afford to spend on an evening's entertainment?

A. She doesn't. Maybe someday radar will come to the rescue and provide a magic eye for determining the amount of money in a boy's pocket but, until then, she's flying blind!

If your date's on the beam, he will suggest a choice of entertainment — all suggestions carefully checked with the exchequer — but, if he doesn't, then you'd better play safe. When he asks, "What would you like to do tonight?" give him a choice: one which adds up to moderate means (a neighborhood movie, a Teen Canteen, skating, or bowling, perhaps); another which comes for free (listening to the radio or vic, a walk in the park or a visit to the home of a girl-friend, *provided* you're sure she has a date, too).

But suppose your date won't commit himself and leaves the choice up to you. Then take it — but make it easy on the pocketbook. Few boys are made of moola and you'd rather have more dates at less cost than less dates at more cost, wouldn't you?

Q. Is a girl considered a "gold-digger" if she likes the "better places"?

A. What do you mean by "better places?" If Carol insists on going to swank places because she likes to tell her friends, "Oh, Jerry took me to the Starlight Roof Saturday night!" Jerry has a right to be insulted. He's being used as a prop for Carol's vanity.

A genuine gal only enthuses over the fun she and Jerry had Saturday night — whether the fun took place in Jake's Diner or at a friend's home. Real fun comes from being with the gang, from doing things together. Real fun *never* has to cost money. If your enthusiasm depends on the state of your date's wallet, it's a pretty tinny enthusiasm.

On the other hand, if you mean by "better places," the kind of places your parents would approve, that's another story. If you mean you don't like to go to "dives," more power to you in being choosy. If your town boasts few appropriate hang-outs for teen-agers, you may have to insist on the "better places." But, if the "better places" cost more jack, you can't expect to gad as often. You'll have to be cagey, and help plan free entertainment in between.



Wanted: Radar for counting change.

the size of a peanut. When a dance pops up unexpectedly, you're flat broke. Either you have to go on a starvation diet or else look for a friend — but quick!

There ought to be a law — or *something*, you say in exasperation, to cut the cost of dating.

There's one sure way — and *only* one: settle it for yourself. Decide what your average date should cost and stick to your decision. To expect to set a price on average dates is like expecting everyone to pay the same amount for an average suit of clothes. There are just as many different sorts of dates as there are suits. Some people prefer several suits at low cost to fewer suits at high cost.

The average cost of your dates will depend on the size of your income and the extent of your out-going. Would

SPECIAL PROBLEMS



"Look, Marge, it's like this, see . . ."

Q. When it's necessary to break a date, how should you go about it?

A. Tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but! And add your sincere apologies. That's all you can do. Anything less (not showing up) is bad manners; anything more (a manufactured alibi) is bad politics.

Q. If you have made a date with a boy for one night and then you remember you've made a date with another boy for the same night, what should you do?

A. Take a memory course, buy yourself a date pad, and never let it happen again! "Breaking dates" is a pet peeve among boys, and justifiably so. They are suspicious of any excuses you manufacture in order to ease out of a muddled situation. Better be honest. Apologize to Date No. 2 and admit your memory skid. Assure him that it won't happen again — and *don't let it*.

Q. Is it okay for a boy to date his friend's girl friend?

A. You'll never know until you try — and then you may wish you hadn't! The answer here depends upon the three individuals concerned — and upon their concerns for one another. If you value highly your friendship with the other boy, then you'd better talk it over with him first. If you barge ahead, believing that "all's fair in love," you may be starting a war!

Q. If you know a girl has a house guest, can you ask her for a date without getting a date for her guest?

A. If Maggie has a guest, her first responsibility is as a hostess. No matter how desperately you want to see her, you'll have to make the best of an evening with the boys unless you want to date both girls yourself. If you can line up one of your buddies to escort the guest, that's better politics. For no matter how willing you may be to play Casanova to two girls, the second girl may feel as if she were barging in on your date.

Perhaps Maggie knows a boy she'd like to invite to meet her friend. In that case, you can work out plans together.

Q. When a girl goes out with a girl friend and the friend's date, should the boy pay the way for both girls?

A. Under most circumstances he should. But the extra girl shouldn't go along unless the boy invites her. There are many occasions when it is appropriate for a boy to do this.

If Tim steps in to take Martha to the movies and finds that Barbie is visiting Martha, it would be slick of him to invite both girls to the movies. But if Tim doesn't have enough cash to squire two girls around, he might better suggest all three of them stay home and listen to records. Tim should not invite Barbie to come along and then expect her to pay her own way.

If Barbie, on her way to a basketball game, should meet Tim and Martha, also on the way to the game, she might accompany them, but in this case she should expect to pay her own way. Tim may volunteer to buy her ticket, if he likes, but he isn't obligated to do so.

Q. Should a girl go out with a boy after a basketball game when she didn't come with him?

A. Why not, if he's a boy she knows and if she didn't come to the game with another boy? This shifting escorts in midstream doesn't work very well outside of romantic novels.

If there's no double-play or double-dealing involved, then go ahead. There's no reason why a beautiful friendship can't begin as well after a basketball game as before.

Q. When transportation is difficult, should the boy still call for the girl and see her home?

A. No rule is a good rule when it stops making good sense. A boy should

call for a girl and take her home, whenever possible. But there may be exceptions.

You may live several miles from town and have no car of your own. If a number of your friends were going to a school party, it would be okay for you to ask your friends to pick up your date and escort her to the party. You could meet her there. A similar arrangement could be worked for getting the girl home. But be sure that *you* make the arrangements.

If it's the girl who lives at an inconvenient distance, you'd better not invite her out unless you can solve the transportation problem. A little soft soap in your big brother's direction might encourage him to volunteer taxi services on special occasions. Or the girl's older brother or father might help out. However, you can't count on her family's aid unless she volunteers such a suggestion. Again, if a girl lives in a neighboring town, you might suggest she come to your school on the bus. In that case, you should meet her at the bus stop — on time.

Calling for a girl and taking her home are two gentlemanly customs that shouldn't be overlooked. If your situation requires a revision of the accepted rule, then revise. Be practical, but be considerate.

Q. How can a girl politely get rid of a boy who has stopped in for the evening if she has to study or work?

A. Even if you are of the opinion that no studying could take priority over a trousered member of the race, there are other times when a casual guest is a problem. You might have an eight-thirty date with another boy or a young people's meeting on the docket.

Whatever your plans, don't hedge and, for goodness sakes, don't sit there making polite conversation wishing he would leave. Tell your caller exactly what your schedule for the evening is. If you've promised to be at Margie's at eight, state your plans. You might ask him if he'd like to walk you over.

If your geometry is the complicating factor, tell him how it is with geometry. If you can concentrate in his presence, you might supply him with one of your brother's detective novels and a plate of cookies. Tell him to occupy himself for an hour till you're finished with tangents and triangles.

If the geometry looks like a full evening's work, tell him so. Tell him if you'd known he was going to drop by you'd have planned your schedule to avoid conflicts. Suggest that he come by the following evening.

If you plan to play Janie's records for an hour, it's a good idea to give her a ring before you walk in. Ask her if she's busy. If she's not, say you'd like to come over for a while. Then you won't put her in an embarrassing position if she has other plans. You also give her time to take her hair out of curlers — a preparation both of you should appreciate.

If you do decide to pop in on the spur of the moment, you should inquire what her plans may have been as soon as you get inside the door. You don't *really* want to be there when Tom comes to take her to the movies, do you? That leaves you sitting on the sofa with her kid brother and looking a little silly.

Q. How can a girl let her date know that it's time to go home? Is there any way to say it so that he won't think I'm a dreary, tied to my mother's apron-strings?



Here's your hat, Bub, and do hurry!

A. Easy does it. Most boys will get the idea without being bounced or booted — even verbally. Often they're just as perturbed as you are about the *right time* to check out. *Too early*, and you may be insulted or think they aren't having a good time. *Too late*, and they might get into a jam with either your parents or their own. Toss out a gentle hint, such as, "Too bad we won't have time for the rest of this Morton Gould album," or "Why is it that all good radio bands come 'after dating hours?'" If this doesn't make a dent, you can be more plain-spoken: "This is great fun, but there comes a *time*. . . ." Guaranteed to bring prompt results, unless he's as dumb as he is deaf!

And what's this biz about being ashamed of curfew? Be smart. Figure it out this way: you can't keep going "full speed ahead" on a battery that needs re-charging. Your boy-friends need the same battery service that you do and, with many of them on a school-and-work schedule these days, they'll be thankful for a little extra shut-eye.

BLIND DATE

Q. Should you ever "blind date?"

A. You've just tuned in the radio, wrapped yourself around a good book, and settled down for the evening, when the telephone rings. It's Scotty and there's an S.O.S. in his voice. "Look, chum, I've gotta date with Stelle tonight and her girl-friend's spending the night there. I doubt if you've met Rose but . . ."

Uh-oh, you know what's coming. He wants you to have a "blind date" with Stelle's girl-friend. You frown, remembering what a slow drip your last "blind" turned out to be.

"There's a juke-box dance at the Teen Canteen," Scotty goes on hurriedly, "and the four of us could have a swell time. I'll be by for you in thirty minutes. Okay? C'mon, chum. I'd do the same for you, y'know."

Sure, he would. Good ole Scotty. You hesitate a moment longer and then give in. "Okay, Scotty, but if this dame . . ." It's too late. He hung up before you could change your mind. You turn away from the telephone, wondering. Should you have taken a chance on another "blind date"? Will you have to dance with her all evening at the Teen Canteen? If she dances like a pogo stick, what can you do? What can you talk about to take your mind off your feet???

The irony of it is that *she's* probably wondering the same things!

If you've had bad luck with blind dates in the past, it may not have been entirely *your* date's fault. The usual trouble is that, as soon as someone asks you to have a "blind date," you conjure up a vision of loveliness who is a cross between Hedy LaMarr and Betty Grable with a little of Lamour thrown in for good measure. The girls do the same thing, only their dream is of Van Johnson and Robert Walker with perhaps a bit of Gene Kelly's footwork. Now that's unfair to "blind dates"! Even if Hollywood stars do make frequent personal appearances in cities throughout the country, you aren't likely to meet one of them on a "blind date." And you'd better be prepared to meet a normal human being, somewhat like you've been accustomed to dating. On this basis, your chances are at least

even that you won't be disappointed. In some cases you may be delightfully surprised, but don't count on it.

Another point in "blind dating" is not to trust a casual acquaintance to know "just the gal" or "just the guy" for you. If a good friend of yours, who knows the type of date you like, makes the date for you — okay. Otherwise, thumbs down, unless you're willing to take a chance. And whoever makes the date for you and whatever you draw, don't expect your "blind" to be a sparkling wit or a slick chick from the word "hello" straight through to "g'bye now." Any successful date requires 50-50 cooperation and you're supposed to be able to talk in more than monosyllables!

Q. What are the pros and cons of "Dutch Dating"? Who suggests it — the boy or girl?

A. "Dutch Dating" is a ticklish subject. The *pros* are very positive; the *cons* are very negative; and there seems to be no Mr. In-Between. Strangely enough, although boys are the biggest grippers about the cost of dating, they are also the loudest in their objections

DUTCH DATE

to "Dutch Dating." They just don't like the idea of a girl's paying her own way.

"Dutch Dating" seems to work best with "steadies" who feel free to discuss finances. In most cases the girl suggests paying her own way, sometimes just "in an emergency," sometimes regularly by mutual agreement.

The real reason that "Dutch Dating" is a ticklish subject is that we're scared stiff of the subject of money. And that's plain silly. Money is a convenience — sometimes a very necessary convenience — but the lack of it isn't anything to be ashamed of. Why not talk about it — honestly and openly? If we would, half the problems and worries of dating would be solved.



Two hearts — two dimes between.

GIRL DATES BOY

Q. Should girls ever ask boys for dates?

A. Yes, *provided* the occasion is a party, a school prom, or a get-together for which other girls are asking boys for dates. It isn't necessary that you've dated the boy you're asking, but it's a good idea for two reasons: (1) You can repay the boy who has been nice to you; (2) You'll know what sort of an escort you're getting!

Q. My girls' club is planning to have a party and invite boys. How do we go about asking them? And entertaining them, as our guests?

A. Group hostessing, such as a girls' club party, is a fine way to repay boys for what they call "the high cost of dating," and a fine chance for you to set a good example in dating conduct. Put on your best dating manners!

How do you like to be asked to a party? You like to know the *who, what, where* and *when*, don't you? Okay.



Girl dates Boy! But boys complain it sometimes costs more that way.

Your invitation can be issued either in writing, in person, or by phone. Give him the whole story as clearly and simply as possible. "Our girls' club is having a party at Dot Snow's house Friday evening at eight o'clock. Each of us is asking a boy as guest, and I'd like you to be my date."

If he accepts, the chances are that he'll ask: "Shall I come by for you?" But if he doesn't follow through on this, it's still your pitch! Perhaps some other girl in your neighborhood is going to the party. You might say, "Susie's asking Joe. Maybe the four of us could go together." Whatever the situation, be sure you make *definite* arrangements about where and when to meet. That's your part of the bargain, when "Girl dates Boy."

Even if the party is in someone else's home, remember that your date is your guest. See that he has a good time! Introduce him by all means to everyone present, including the parents in the home.

Q. If your class is having a prom and you'd like to invite a boy from another school, who pays for the tickets?



It sounds simple until you're asking.

A. If you're the inviter, better *be prepared* to foot the bill. Boys claim that it sometimes costs them more to *accept* an invitation to a prom than it does to issue an invitation!

If you're asking an outside boy to go with you to the prom, you buy the tickets and give them to him when he calls for you. Most boys will offer to pay their share. If your date offers to pay for his ticket, or for both, accept his offer as genuine. If he doesn't, remember that it was *your* idea; now it's *your* party. Have your nickels ready for bus fare and explain. "The party's on me tonight." Don't argue, though, if your date objects. Be ready and willing — to pay both ways — but not insistent.



"May I help with your coat, sir?"

FOND FAREWELL

Q. On a first date with a boy you like, should you kiss him goodnight?

A. A kiss *good-night* is all right
But, remember this —
That a kiss *good-night*
Leads to another kiss —

So say the songwriters. And, since they've been in the June-moon-swoon-tune business for some time, they ought to know the sequence of events.

Okay. So what?

It isn't as if you were going out for necking. That isn't your idea of a favorite sport. And you don't want the sort of passing popularity that's pegged on petting.

It's just that you'd rather not be known as a cold potato. Or maybe your argument is that "everybody does it." Or you don't know how to refuse.

What's the answer?

Here's the story — you write the ending. A boy asks you for a date. Why? He likes your looks. Or he likes your style. Or he's in a dating mood and you happen to be within talking distance.

You have the date and get along swell. He's keen on aviation and your brother was an Air Corps pilot during the war, so you have something to talk about. You tune in your favorite "platter jockey" program and discover that you both rate Woody Herman tops on your Disc Parade. You stroll down to the Sweet Shoppe and find out that your favorite, strawberry soda, is his, too. On the way home you pass the office of the *Morning Star* and he tells you about his ambitions to become a roving reporter, flying his own plane. It all sounds exciting, thrilling, heart-throbbing.

By the time you reach home you're all aglow. So, when he starts to kiss you, you can't think of any reasonable reason *why not*. Or can you?

Sure, you've had a wonderful time. He has, too. You've clicked on almost everything — seemingly. You want him to ask you for another date — terrifically. Maybe "a kiss goodnight" would cinch the matter!

But if "a kiss goodnight" would cinch it, how could you be sure *why* he'd be asking you for another date? Would it be because of the "click" or the clinch??? Would he be coming back because he liked *you* or because he liked your kisses???

If you do kiss the boys good night, you're running the risk of having yourself foot-noted as an "easy number." And if you think that the corner-drug huddle or the boys' locker-room gang are discussing the national debt, you'd better do some second-thinking! You may not be their most-talked-of subject, on the basis of a first-date good-night kiss, but that's the way to get your name on the list for future reference. What sort of a reputation do you



Don't use a doorstep as a soapbox!

want? Now's the time to decide — not later, when you wish you could correct a few "slippance" impressions.

Any girl who thinks that lasting romances are built on physical attraction is only kidding herself, perhaps even excusing herself, for not having developed personality enough to attract a boy on an honest basis. Any girl can give a guy "a kiss good night," but it's the smart gal who is No. 1 on the Personality Parade.

Some of the smartest gals think it's better to keep 'em guessing.

Q. If you don't want to kiss a fellow, how can you refuse without making him mad?

A. The answer here is more in what you *do* than in what you say. If you don't want him in a mellow mood, then don't make with the moonlight. Don't stand at the door for fifteen minutes giggling or shivering or giving him a starry-eyed stare. Don't fumble with the



The Curtain Falls on the last act!

door key or take five minutes finding it in your pocketbook. Sign off with "I had a (*good, swell, lovely* — whatever you call it) time." And, if you'd like to have another date with him, say "I hope you'll come again sometime." Words are a much more effective method of putting across your idea than fluttery eyelids! Some boys may be intrigued by the fluttery stuff, but most of them go for girls who are honest, natural, and sincere.

When you find yourself with a wolf at the door, you'll have to write your own script because you know the characters in the cast. If you're the sort of girl who can toss out a wisecrack and he's the sort of guy who can take it, okay — it's your toss. But if you aren't the wisecracking type, then don't try to



Head of the Wolfpack comes to call.

get funny. On the other hand, don't deliver a lecture! There isn't time and this isn't the place. Sign off politely — and scam!

P.S. No boy — no matter whether he's Head of the Wolfpack — will persist in affectionate intentions, if he gets a *positively negative* response. It's that "maybe" attitude that keeps a wolf wolfing! If you're *sure* that your answer is "No!" he'll be sure, too.

Q. Don't boys want anything from girls other than necking?

A. It's true that some boys — but only a comparative few — seem to follow the same routine with every girl they date — just to see what they can get. Unfortunately they don't realize that they're showing disrespect; they think that kissing and necking are games.

But even the gamesters understand the meaning of the word "No," if it's spoken with conviction. You can't give kisses readily and then expect a boy to say, "Okay. That was good. But *that's enough!*" If it was good, he's likely to want *more*.

But any fellow, who's a right-sort-of-guy, respects his date's opinions, no matter what the subject. And there are plenty of those right-sort-of-guys. They don't expect a girl to neck; they enjoy her companionship and conversation; they like her company in social activities, such as dancing, and in sports, such as biking, bowling, tennis, etc. And, if they should happen to get in "a moonlight mood," they respect a girl who means what she says, even if she says "No!"

The Party System

Chapter II

HOW IT FUNCTIONS

Q. How can you, as host or hostess, keep a party "pepped up" all evening?

A. As a host or hostess, the party's on you — from beginning to end. You're the pace-setter, so stay on your toes! Make plans in advance to have not one, but several things to do (dancing, singing, ping-pong, cards or other games) and see that all of your guests participate, even if you have to drag them out of the corner.

A sure way of having your party "good to the last minute" is to make something special of the refreshments. Turn your kitchen into a Canteen or a Lunch Stand. Arrange a counter (tables) in front of the stove with chairs or stools on the service side. Get a couple of the guests to don aprons and be countermen and serve hot grilled "franks" on rolls with onions, slaw, and sliced dills on the side. Your guests may like the idea so well that they'll try to make it an "All-Night Lunch Stand," in which case you'd better post a sign announcing closing time!

Q. How do you introduce guests at a party, particularly if there's a large crowd?

A. The simplest way to introduce one person to a roomful of people is to get the group's attention with a "Hi, everybody!" and then say: "I'd like you to meet Chip Carter." There's no use trying to reel off the names of dozens of people, even if your memory is that good! Chip's isn't good enough to remember a complete guest list all in one introduction. Later on, though, it would be nice of you to give Chip some leads on a few of the guests you know best. "Bev Mason's a whiz of a tennis player" or "Dave Knox is as keen on aviation as you are." That sort of remark helps a stranger to feel easier and freer in his conversation.

Individual introductions, of course, are nicer, if you can make the rounds before the evening's half gone. Always introduce boys to girls or women. In translation, this means that you say the girl's or woman's name first: "Marge, this is Chip Carter." Or "Mrs. Snow, I'd like you to meet Chip Carter."

Also introduce young people to older people. "Mr. Snow, I'd like you to meet Chip Carter and Monk Lewis."

Q. At a party how can you make a good impression on someone who doesn't seem to know you're alive?

Certainly not by sitting off in a corner and eyeing him worshipfully and certainly not by turning handsprings in the middle of the floor! No boy likes to be made conspicuous in a crowd by the actions of his date, whether she's mooning over him or trying to be "the life of the party." Be your best self in appearance, manners, and conversation. This doesn't mean you should be stiff and formal. It means being friendly, interested, and ready to join in the fun. It means friendliness towards everyone, not just that "certain someone" you want to impress. Boys usually like girls who are liked by other boys and girls.

There's safety in numbers. If you make a good impression on *everyone*, instead of concentrating on *someone*, your time and effort won't be wasted in case "someone" doesn't quite add up to what you thought he would. Look back at the "certain someone" you've liked *lots, less, little* and you'll agree.



The life of a party isn't a showoff.



Make all your guests "Welcome!"

Q. How should you act at a party when you're asked to do something and you don't want to do it because you are shy?

A. You can't go to many parties without coming up against a game that requires a stunt or a forfeit. Such stunts and forfeits are usually designed to make you look as silly as possible. Check? And whatever makes you look silly, the gang thinks is funny. Check?

All right. You shouldn't accept an invitation unless you're going to respond to the spirit of the occasion. It's unfair to your hostess.

Step in and take your part. When you're asked to crow like a rooster, the easiest way out is to crow like a rooster. The gang wants to hear you crow. They don't care how well you do it. They'll like it even more if you sound like a feeble hen! And they'll laugh with you for being a good sport.

The sure way to call attention to yourself is to balk, to blush, to stammer that you "couldn't possibly." That embarrasses everyone and throws a damper on the party.

Crazy as a forfeit may seem, paying it is often a healthy thing. It's good for anyone to be able to laugh at himself. It's good for a fellow to find himself in a spot where he doesn't look so sharp, and has to carry through on spirit alone. Sooner or later, he'll find himself in an awkward situation *outside* a party — where poise is important. Make your poise shatterproof!

Q. Is it all right to have a party when your parents aren't home?

A. It's not a good idea. You may be capable of playing host or hostess by yourself. Your parents may feel you are trustworthy. They may be willing to give you permission to entertain independently.

But your friends' parents may not feel the same way. They may prefer that their children go to parties where there is some adult supervision (even if that supervision is from upstairs in mother's sewing room.)

This is a case where public opinion counts, so you'd better follow the rules.

Mom and Pop should be around when your guests arrive, in order to make the welcome official. After that, they could retire to another part of the home, (they'll probably want to!) and only give a look-in later on. Any entertainment that can't take place with your

However, if your parties have a reputation for being so exciting that nobody ever remembers to go home, a little advance strategy will be necessary. You might state the curfew hour of your shindig when you issue the invites. Just toss out the information that the party is from 7:30 to 11:00.

Should this hint slip their minds, get your friends to aid in heading the stampede homewards. Slip the word to Margie ahead of time. Tell her your Dad only approves of parties which break up at 11:00. Comes the hour, you can count on Margie to announce that it's time she was going home. Margie may want you to do the same for her sometime.

Q. If you have to leave a party earlier than the rest, how should you excuse yourself?

A. With as little to-do as possible. Slip aside quietly and get your coat. Go to your hostess and thank her. Toss a general good-bye to the gang. And out the door! Don't make an issue of the fact that you must leave early.

Naturally, if you play the tragedienne in announcing the fact that you have to leave early, everyone will begin to feel sorry for you and probably plead with you to stay a while — which may lead to disaster on the home front. There's never an awkward situation created by having to leave early unless you make it awkward.

If the rules of your household require you to be home before the rest of your friends, make the best of it. Most college girls have to be in earlier than you do — and you never hear them complain that the Dean of Women is old-fashioned!

Besides, it's always smarter to be the first to leave than the last to go home. You avoid the possible embarrassment of having stayed longer than you were supposed to — and you avoid the risk of circles under your eyes tomorrow!

Q. Whom do you thank when your club has been entertained by another club? Should each member of your group thank the host and hostess? Or is a formal "thank you" from your president enough?

A. Sincere thanks for hospitality is a thing that can't be overdone. The thanks of your club president count for everybody, but enthusiastic thanks from each of you will leave your hosts with the feeling their efforts have been worthwhile.

Perhaps, a dramatics club in a nearby high school has invited your dramatics

club to a party. When the party breaks up, if convenient, you should express your pleasure to the student or teacher in charge of the gathering. Then, if any particular students have gone out of their way to entertain you, you should thank them, too.

Another point to remember, when you're being entertained as a group, is not to stick with your own gang. You've been invited to meet and talk with other students. Make it a point to be good mixers.

You can't think it shows "school spirit" to sit with your cronies on the sidelines and compare the way your hosts do things with the way you do them at Monroe High. When you go to a friend's for the evening, you don't sit around and tell him that you have a bigger living room at home and that your father tells better jokes than his. When your group is being entertained there's more at stake than your personal manners or tact. Your school's reputation hangs in the balance.

HE-QUESTIONS

Q. If you don't know how to dance and don't have anyone to teach you, how can you learn — in a hurry?

A. Don't think you have to know Arthur Murray personally or go to dancing school in order to learn to dance. It's easier if you have someone to practice with, so make a deal with your sister or brother, Mother or Dad, or some friend of yours. But even "on your own," you can learn enough about dancing to "get by."

Anyone who knows the beat of music can learn to dance. And anyone — whether he knows a note of music or can carry a tune in a bucket — can learn that beat of music. Listen to it! On the radio, on records, the school band at assemblies or games. You can hardly miss the beat of marching music. Try humming to yourself. Your school song, perhaps, *The Army Air Corps Song*, or *YANK-ee DOOD-le CAME to TOWN*. Then walk around the room in step to the beat of the music.

Next, try a slower tune. *It's Been a Long, Long Time* has a good slow beat. Walk slowly, in step with the music, but without waking the neighbors! Lift your feet *slightly* off the floor, but don't let them drag or scrape.



Talk, talk talk — see how he wilts.

parents on the premises is a brand of entertainment that had best be avoided.

Besides, a party in your own home is a golden opportunity to introduce your friends to your parents in a friendly, informal way. It pays for them to get together.

HOW IT FINISHES

Q. If you are entertaining, and the hour is growing late, how should you inform your guests that they should leave?

A. Usually, guests can sense when their time is up. If you serve late refreshments as a climax to your party, they'll probably take the cue and leave shortly after the ice cream is polished off.

Let your toes touch the floor first, then the heels. *That's for boys* who, in dancing, walk forward most of the time and who always start on the left foot.

Girls, in dancing, walk backward most of the time and always start on the right foot. In dancing backward they're always *on their toes*.

(Note: When you get to be a Gene Kelly or Rita Hayworth, you can do as you please! And, when you learn to rhumba, you'll learn that your heels never leave the floor. But this is for *now* and *at the beginning*.)

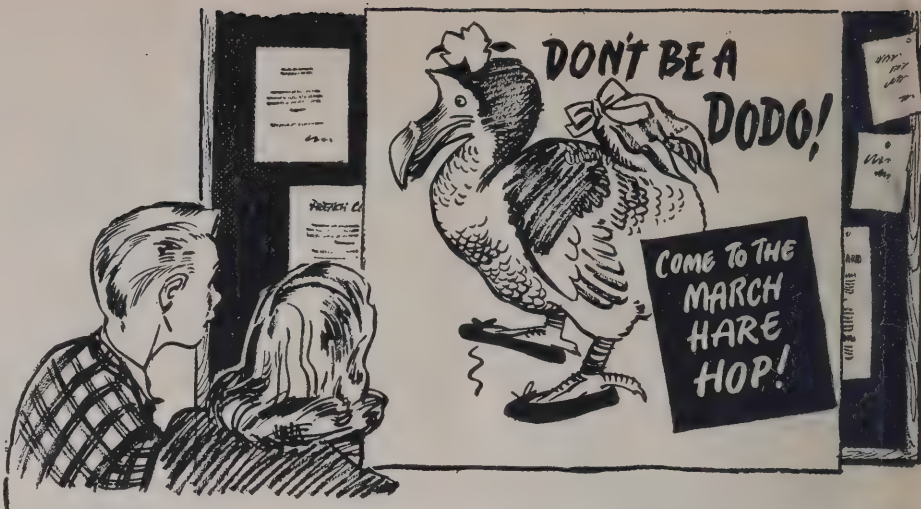
Once you've learned to walk to the beat of music, it's okay to "get in the mob" on the dance floor. But don't try to buck traffic! Dancers move counter-clockwise, except for the jitterbugs who can be bumped into anywhere, anytime—but that's okay. Just say, "I'm sorry" and get out of the way!

When you take a girl onto the dance floor, treat her as if she were human. Don't try any strangle-holds or *apache* stuff. Put your right arm around her with your right hand placed at her waistline. Hold her right hand in your left—and without reaching for the moon, just in a comfortable position. She will show her gratitude (we hope!) by *not* anchoring her left hand to the back of your neck, but placing it just below your coat collar—and lightly.

If this is your first dance, don't try anything fancier than walking in time to the music. Take time-out to watch some of the others. Then take your date off in a corner, out of the traffic jam, and practice. Most girls are so eager to have boys learn to dance that they'll be glad to be guinea pigs—temporarily.

Q. How far in advance should a boy ask a girl for a Prom date?

A. Ask her as far in advance as possible! Why run the risk of having some other fellow beat you to the asking? And why keep the girl on pins and needles? She may have a better use for them—in whipping up a new dress or remodeling an old one. You want her to look her very best, don't you? Okay, then give her a chance. For girls the answer to "best-dressed" isn't as simple as deciding which tie to wear with a clean shirt and a pressed suit. Give her time for planning. And, what is more important, give her the thrill of anticipating the Big Date. Yes, of talking, thinking, and getting excited about it. If that sounds like "a lot of nonsense" to you, then you're being typically masculine. But let her be typically feminine!



This sign means Y-O-U, if you haven't learned to dance. Now's the time!

Q. Is it all right for a boy who doesn't dance to ask a girl to go to a dance?

A. High school dances are much more than a Gene Kelly technique. Nine-tenths of the fun comes from just being with the gang at a party.

Naturally, you're at an advantage if you can dance *before* you start inviting girls to dances. But in any case, it's still *possible* and *permissible* to invite a girl, provided she knows all the facts. If you and the girl are good friends, you might put it up to her. Tell her that you *don't* know how to dance, but would enjoy taking her. Ask her to give you a few pointers on dancing. Most girls will be glad to teach you anything they know. It will assure them of a smoother escort in the future. Just don't give a gal the impression you're a second Fred Astaire and let her learn "the worst" on the dance floor.

If she accepts your invitation, see that several of your dances are traded with good dancers so that her evening will be more than just a dancing class. But don't be afraid to go along with the gang. You'll soon acquire the necessary stage presence. After all, it's better to be in on the party, than stay away just because you can't be the star.

Q. Should a boy send his Prom date flowers? If so, what kind?

A. Flowers are always a thrill, but they aren't a required subject. If you can afford them, then find out *what kind* your date would like. That's the only way you can be sure you're getting your hard-earned money's worth out of the gift. Put it this way: "I'd like to send you flowers to wear to the Prom. What would you prefer?" You aren't supposed

to know what color dress she's going to wear, whether she likes flowers on her shoulder or in her hair, whether she prefers gardenias, roses, or a mixed corsage. Ask her and she'll tell you—and be grateful for your thoughtfulness!

Q. If you're taking a girl to a dance for the first time, do you have to dance with her all evening?

A. Not if you can help it! And you can. But the answer is in planning, not in prayer! Make arrangements, in advance, with one or more other boys to exchange partners with you for a dance or two. Also, at the dance, between dances, steer your date to a group or another couple whom you know. Suggest to another boy that you exchange the next dance, but don't forget to reclaim your partner at the end of the next dance—not the end of the evening. She's *your* date!

If you're "a stranger here yourself" and your date doesn't know people, then track down a member of the host or hostess committee or a chaperon. They'll get the idea, if you tell them you'd like your date to meet people. And don't be afraid to embarrass your girl by maneuvering for other partners. You'll boost your stock if she has herself a whirl, thanks to you!

Q. Is it all right to ask a girl to dance if she is talking with some other girls?

A. Of course. However, if Peg is talking with only one girl, why not round up one of your buddies to invite the second girl to dance before you approach Peg? No girl likes to be left standing alone on the sidelines of a dance floor. Although you are not required to rescue every stranded female

in sight, you shouldn't create an awkward situation.

Q. What is the proper way to cut in on a couple who are dancing?

A. The boy who wishes to cut-in walks up to the couple dancing and, as he taps the boy on the left shoulder, says, "May I cut-in?" or "Do you mind if I cut?" To simply demand, "Cut!" is bad manners. After all, the other fellow staked out his claim first. If you want to share the wealth, you should at least be courteous about it.

The boy who is being cut-out should thank his partner for the dance and leave the floor. A boy should never refuse to let another boy cut-in on a dance unless the challenger is drunk or dangerous—and most of your friends won't be.

Q. At a dance, what should a fellow do when the same guy keeps cutting in on him? Slug him?

A. You do not "slug the guy," no matter how great a menace you consider him. Nor do you tell him to "lay off." Nor do you try his own tactics of cut-throat cutting back. Nobody wins in that kind of fight except the girl. She may love it, but it doesn't show you off to much advantage. It points up the fact that the situation is out-of-control.

Bringing a girl to a dance doesn't give you priority on every dance. If Charlie cuts in on you and Midge, let him have a whirl with her before you claim her again. Boys usually cut-in on you because they want to dance with a gal, not because they want to start a game. Besides, isn't Charlie's cutting a compliment to your taste?

SHE-QUESTIONS

Q. How do you introduce your date to other boys at a dance?

A. This is one cue you can't afford to miff. Show your date a good time!

When you see Mary coming toward you with her date, you don't turn your back on the audience. You say hello to Mary's friend and tell him you're glad he could come to your dance. Then, before Bud gets the idea that this is a private show between you and Mary's date, you turn to him and say, "Bud, I'd like you to meet Jerry Comden." And to Jerry — "Jerry, this is Bud Travis." For conversation ammunition, you might add that Jerry goes to Allendale High and that he plays soccer there. This will give the boys something to talk about besides the dance decorations!

Q. I'm going to my first formal and, gee, all the questions that come to my mind at once! Do I carry my evening bag with me all the time? Should I have one of those large chiffon handkerchiefs? Do I wear gloves? What sort of a wrap? Would a sleeveless dress, but not a formal, be okay?

A. If the formal is in a school gym, hotel, or clubhouse (or anywhere other than a private home) you'd better plan to hang onto your evening bag all evening. And please, by special request of boys, don't ask your date to lug luggage in his pocket! Large evening handkerchiefs are used to complement (give color contrast, for instance) a costume. Not necessary but sometimes nice! Evening gloves? No, too sophisticated for most teen-agers. Wear the outdoor kind *outdoors only*. Any coat is okay for a wrap. In fact, more sports coats are worn for evening than other kinds. And any dress-up dress you have is okay. Formals — long and flowing — are pretty on the dance floor, but don't attach too much importance to the type of dress you wear. Be well-groomed!



Introducing Jerry to Bud — shake!

An attractive appearance depends more on neatness than on cost or type of clothes. A good time depends more on your personality than a fancy dress.

Q. What does a girl do, if she gets "stuck" at a dance?

A. The best way out of this one is not to get stuck. It's the old story about an ounce of prevention. And in this case, two ounces won't hurt. That means you learn to dance, and as well as possible. It *doesn't* mean you dream about Junior Proms with a notion that, on the eve of such an event, you will automatically be gifted with grace and rhythm. It means you corner Cousin Dick, your older sister, your best chum, or even your Dad. And you make them teach you all they know. Pick up your practice where you can, but pick it up.

If you can dance, there's much less chance of your getting stuck. But even experienced actors have their off nights. If you *are* stuck, the best remedy is to act as if you *weren't*. Don't withdraw in panicked silence. Instead, concentrate on enjoying Bud's company, rather than on being the "belle of the ball." Pretty soon you'll both be having such a good time together that the stag line you've forgotten will be envious. Remember, the sure formula for booking return engagements is to make the particular boy you're dancing with think you'd rather be with him than anyone else.



Dancing — with the greatest of ease.



Distress signals aren't the answer.

Q. *Should a girl ever refuse to dance with a boy? If so, how?*

A. To refuse to dance with someone at a dance is as impolite as refusing to talk with someone at a party. You shouldn't refuse to dance with a boy unless you have previously promised the dance to someone else. In that case, you would simply say, "I'm sorry, but I've already promised this dance to Glenn." If the boy should ask for the dance after next, then you can only accept graciously. If he dances like a camel, you'll just have to bear it as best you can and pray the ordeal will be a brief one. After one dance, you can say "thank you" and excuse yourself.

At a large public dance you could politely decline to dance with a stranger. But most of the dances you will attend will be school or community affairs. Where everyone is a friend, or a friend of a friend, it's bad manners to decline.

ANYONE'S QUESTIONS

Q. *At a dance, what's necessary to do about chaperons, such as class advisers?*

A. It's necessary and nice to treat them as guests, which they are, rather than as policemen, which they aren't. As guests, they came to have a good time. They are entitled to a pleasant greeting, rather than a cold stare or a quick look in the other direction. They will appreciate a short conversation, but they neither expect nor want you to spend the evening with them. If you'd like to be sure of making a hit, ask them to dance. The chances are,

they'll refuse. But the asking, not the doing, is what makes a hit. And don't be too sure Miss Smithers isn't a good dancer! After all, what chance does she have to waltz around the classroom?

Q. *If your date dances like a pogo stick, what can you do? What can you talk about to take your mind off your feet????*

A. If your date isn't a good dancer, then be satisfied just to keep time to the music. You'll both look better and feel better, *walking* in rhythm, than stumbling over each other—and you may be giving your date a much-needed lesson in the *fundamentals* of dancing.

Be light on your feet and on conversation at a dance! Talk about the music, your favorite tunes and dance bands. Ask your partner a leading question about radio programs, movies, sports, or hobbies. This is no time to discuss Einstein's theory, electronics, or the astronomical triangle. Don't let the weight off your feet go to your head!

Q. *Our class would like to have ideas for decorations for the annual Junior-Senior Prom. Could you give us some suggestions?*

A. First and foremost, be sure you have the best committee of decorators that you can find! Ideas flop unless you have a goodly number of willing hands and ready heads. Try to rally 'round anyone who can draw or paint. Then, if you toss out an idea, something will be done with it!

Here are some ideas:

A Comic Strip Party. This is more fun, of course, when everyone comes dressed as a favorite comic strip character. But the idea can be used in decoration only—cardboard cut-out figures or even Sunday Comic Sections for wall and refreshment booth decoration.

Deep-Sea Party. Use deep blue crepe paper or cheesecloth as background. Tack on cardboard fish, crabs, lobsters, and mermaids (!) painted with kitchen enamel.

Stratosphere Prom. Silver paper stars, arranged as constellations, against blue background. This might also be turned into a Paper Moon Prom.

Q. *Our town has a Teen Canteen, which went over big at first, but now only a few kids go there. We have regular nights for dancing, but no one seems interested and most of the boys don't like to dance. What can we do?*

A. Other youth centers have had or are having the same problem. It takes

both brawn and brains to make a youth center "go over" and stay that way. The brains are needed in setting up the plan of organization, financing the center, and in arranging a program of activity which will continue to hold interest.

Some youth centers have "fizzled out" because there was no sound plan of financing; others have "pooped" because the organizers had the mistaken idea that it's enough to "have a place to go."

You probably have recreation facilities, such as ping-pong tables, shuffleboard, checker boards, magazines, and books. If not, you should have—for those who don't like to dance. But the truth is, most people who say they don't like to dance have never learned how. Why not encourage them by starting a dancing class with some young couple as teachers?

Also, some form of activity, other than mere entertainment, has proven a lifesaver to many youth centers. Organize a dramatic group; put on a musical for some worthy cause. Plan weekly forum discussions (with guest speakers) on such subjects as vocations, parent-student relationships, dating problems, etc. No activities program is likely to survive unless it has some *meat* in it!



The stag line stares—and stands.

Family Affairs



**If you act childish, you'll
be treated like a child!**

Chapter III

DATE DEALINGS

Q. Parents seem to live in "another world." Isn't a girl of sixteen old enough to make her own decisions about dates and curfew hours?

A. Not if her parents turn thumbs down! And if they turn thumbs down, it may be partly the girl's fault.

Sixteen birthdays do not automatically make you grown-up. You can be grown-up at fourteen. You can be childish at twenty. It's up to *you* to prove yourself an adult.

Don't complain that you're treated "like a child," if you really act like one at home. Don't complain that your parents are old-fashioned if you've failed to do your part in keeping them up-to-date.

The cause of most family feuds is lack of give-and-take, which means lack of understanding. There are always two sides to every question and, unless you understand *both* sides, your opinion isn't worth much.

You say your parents live in "another world." That's probably true. It's an adult world — a world weighted with bills, housework, and problems. How much interest do you show in *their* world? How well do you understand it?

Have you asked your parents to explain to you the family budget? Do you do your part in holding down expenditures?

Do you take any responsibility in the running of the household? Do you help with the daily chores — and *without* being nagged about it? Do you *offer* to take care of the younger kids, so your parents can have a movie or bowling date sometimes?

If you can answer yes to these questions, then you have *one* leg to stand on in your argument that you're grown up. But you still need your parents'

understanding of your world. Do you keep them "on the outside" or do you help them to look in?

High school today is very different from what it was in their day. Do you tell your parents about it? Do you tell them about science or home ec lab? About your book report or the speech you made in Oral English? About your class meeting, the assembly program, the football game, or band practice? Do you tell them about your friends and *why* you like them? Do you invite your friends to your home and introduce them to your parents?

And, finally, are you a responsible person? Do you follow through on promises? If you say your homework will be done by seven-thirty, *is it?* If you say you'll be home at eleven, *are you?*

Your answers to these questions are the answer to your question.

Q. I've tried to assume responsibility at home and prove to my parents that I'm grown-up enough to have dates but they still refuse. What else can I do to make them see it my way?

A. Keep your shirt on and give them time to become accustomed to your "change of tune!" Another thing, per-

haps your parents object to your dating a boy when they might not object to your being in a mixed (boy and girl) group. The best way to break into dating is to entertain mixed groups in your own home. Get permission to have a small party (paid for out of your allowance or money you earn) and let your parents meet your friends before you ask to go out with them. It's much smoother to say, "Remember the red-headed boy who was here at the party — well, he wants me to go to the next Hi-Y dance with him," than to say "A boy I know has asked me for a date." Of course, you have to be a good hostess in order to swing this. You can't let the gang raise the roof, frighten the neighbors out of their wits, or leave the living room looking as if an atomic bomb had just passed through, and then expect your parents to be in favor of your dating the atom-bombers!

Another way to develop friendships with boys is on the basis of common hobbies or mutual interests. If you're interested in airplane models, photography, or swing recordings — and Sandy Merritt is, too, then it's only natural that he might drop by to show you a new model or a prize photo, or let you hear a new Count Basie platter.

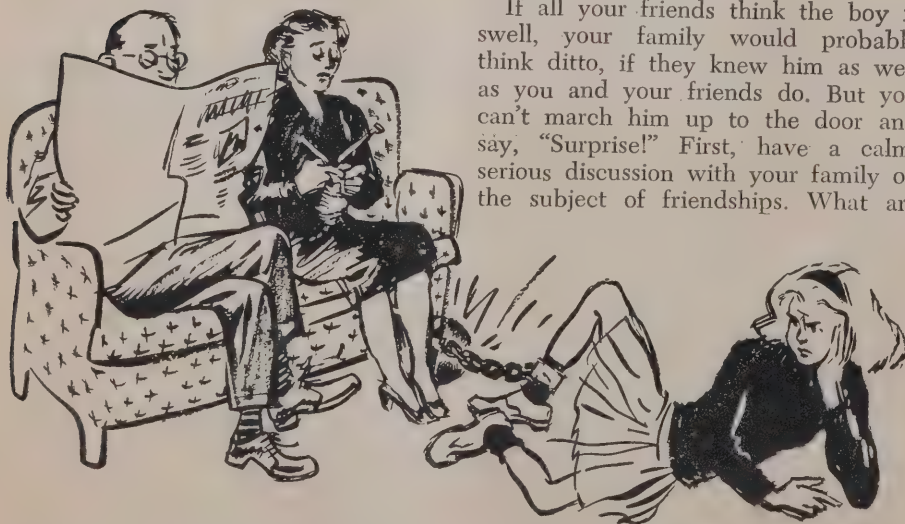
If you and Chuck Conroy have to rehearse your lines for the school play or plan the decorations for the Valentine dance, your parents won't object to his coming to your house "on business." First thing you know, Dad will say, "That Chick Conover — or whatever his name was — seemed a nice sort of boy." That's when you go ahead and state your case!

Q. I'm fifteen and my mother doesn't like me to go with boys. I work at a dime store and, if I get home late, my parents accuse me of not being at work. They think I'm out with boys — and I'm not! But I might as well be, if they think so, mightn't I?

A. The answer is *no* — but definitely. "Paying them back" in a so-there way would prove their point! It would also prove that you're still in a stamp-my-foot, yell-loud-enough, and I'll-get-my-way stage, instead of being grown-up enough to have dates.

Of course, their disagreement is unfair. If you're "not guilty" of being out with boys, you're the one who knows. But there's a better way of proving your innocence than getting mad — or hurt, or doing exactly what you said you didn't! The better way is to win their confidence by being a dependable person. It's the little things that count in building confidence. Do you always do the things you promise at home? If you're kept late at work, couldn't you phone your mother and tell her what to expect?

Dependability is one of the surest ways of proving that you're old enough to go with boys!



Convince your parents you're grown-up and they won't keep you in chains.

YOUR FRIENDS

Q. Why do parents so often object to the friends you choose? Is there anything you can do about it?

A. If they object, nine times out of ten it's because you haven't given them the chance to know your friends or to see their good qualities, as *you* do. When Mom asks, "Who was that on the phone?" it isn't just idle curiosity on her part, it's a genuine interest in the people you know. And what does she get for an answer? "Oh, just a girl (or a boy) I know." Why not tell her *what* girl or *which* boy? Why not tell her that Judy is secretary of the class, has a wonderful sense of humor, and is interested in photography? Or that Jack is a swell dancer, plays on the basketball team, and wants to be an engineer?

Q. My family refuse to let me go out with a certain boy, yet all my friends think he's swell. What's wrong with my meeting him away from home?

A. Plenty. You're running out on a family problem which only you can solve and you're risking a run-in with that certain boy.

No matter how much a boy likes you, he won't like this business of meeting elsewhere. If he's strictly on the beam, he won't put up with it! Eventually he'll blame you, not *your* family, for sneak-outs.

If all your friends think the boy is swell, your family would probably think ditto, if they knew him as well as you and your friends do. But you can't march him up to the door and say, "Surprise!" First, have a calm, serious discussion with your family on the subject of friendships. What are



Surprise! Mom isn't the only cook.

the qualities you admire in others? If you sell them on the soundness of your judgment about other people, you can also sell them on *him*. Not immediately, perhaps, but sooner than later. Don't put your boy friend or your family on the spot by trying to arrange a solo performance. Make it a get-together of several couples or friends in your home. Ask your boy friend to drop in, along with others, several times. And, on such occasions, don't treat your family as if they had the measles! Ask them to join in the fun. They won't stay all evening. And what if they did? What's one night, devoted to friendly family relations, to months of feuding?

Q. I'm almost 18 and I think it's time I should be able to make my own decisions about dates. But my parents don't think so! I've been "going steady" two years with a fine girl and I've almost lost her because of them. How can I make my parents understand I'm not a baby any more?

A. The only way to lick any problem of *misunderstanding* is to put yourself in the other fellow's shoes long enough to gain understanding. Your parents' shoes may not fit your feet and they're probably well-worn with experience, but you can step into them momentarily, if you try!

Parents are people. They have the same general makeup as other people — young or old — whom you know and

like. But there's one big difference. Because they're your parents, their interest in *you* is deeper and greater than that of other people. They feel that you are *their* responsibility.

That's *their* point of view. It isn't yours. But, until you try to understand theirs, you can't begin to solve the problem.

The second step is for you to sell them on *your* point of view. Let's take a look at it. You think you're an adult. You think you're "acting your age," when you want to make your own decisions about dates — *one date*, in particular. You believe she's a fine girl and, if you've been "going steady" for almost two years, you ought to know! Evidently, you think **THIS IS IT** — the love of your life. Okay. But have you, in your limited dating career (before "going steady"), had enough experience to be *sure* that this is the O.A.O.? Is this the "thrill of a romance" or are you seriously thinking of marriage? If you *aren't* thinking of marriage, aren't you spending a lot of time on one heart-throb? If you *are* thinking of marriage, will it cut short your plans for career training?

When you think of marriage, are you serious — or lovesick? Are you considering the responsibilities of marriage — a home, finances, a family — or just a daily diet of love?

All of these are questions which may cause your parents' concern.

Have a calm, serious discussion with them. Listen to their point of view. Give them yours. But don't expect — don't ask for — a quick shift to your side. Because your parents are years ahead of you, their opinions will change slowly. They are the more valuable for that very reason.

Q. Recently I met a boy who is ten years older than I am. My parents object to my dating him because of the difference in our ages. But, if I like him (and I do!!!), why shouldn't I date him?

A. First, let's be sure *you're* sure of your reasons for wanting to date him. You say you like him!!! Does that mean that you like his looks or that you two are really congenial? Are you thrilled by the attentions of an older boy or do you have interests in common? Who does most of the talking when you're together? Are you merely providing him with an eager audience or is he genuinely interested in your conversation? Do you know his friends? Does he know yours? Do you fit into the group he goes with? Does he click

with your crowd? Answer these questions honestly and you'll know whether you like the boy or the idea of going with an older boy.

A year or two's difference in ages seldom matters, but ten years' difference means that your date has had ten years of experience and knowledge which you haven't had a chance to acquire. Since he isn't likely to turn a backward somersault and be a teen-ager again, this means that you have to leap forward ten years, if you date him. That's a big jump. Can you make it? And, even if you can, do you want to skip that many years of your life? Are you willing to lose out with the



Sister teams start in their teens.

high school gang while you're still one of them? You can't leave a space marked "reserved" and come back to it later. Once you decide to step out of your crowd, you're o-u-t!

KID SISTER AND OLDER BROTHER

Q. My kid sister gets in my hair. She's a pest, but my parents think she's "IT." What can I do about her?

A. I know how it is. She lend-leases your pet sweater without permission, uses your perfume, swipes your nail polish, and always wants to tag along, wherever you go. What's more, all she has to do is holler "Mom!" and you get a stern lecture and orders-from-head-quarters. Well, back up and start

over. You can't win in a dogfight, but you can take defense measures. Get Mom to put you both on a clothes allowance and you help Kid Sis make out a clothes budget, so that she'll have a pet sweater of her own. If you each can't have a room to yourself, you can have separate dressing tables without much expense. Three of those triple-decker shoe drawers with a glass top and a mirror above can serve as a dressing table, and if you'd keep your things out of sight (in a drawer), they might stay out of her mind.

If you'd take time to help Kid Sis plan a party or entertain her friends, she wouldn't be so anxious to tag along with you and yours. But don't be too sure she's a drawback. Look at the many sister teams in the entertainment and business world and see what happened to those tag-alongs!

Q. Is it okay to take your little sister along on a movie date?

A. Not if you want more dates with the same boy! Try to avoid such complications by advance planning. If there are certain nights in the week when you are the sister-sitter, don't make movie dates for that night. Don't make *any* dates for that night, unless your b.f. understands The Situation — and accepts it.

If sister-sitting turns out to be a last-minute emergency, better revise your plans and make it a stay-at-home date. You'll have to grin and bear it, until she gets sleepy, but that's better than a threesome date for the whole evening!

Q. My trouble isn't a "kid brother" but an older brother who makes my life miserable. He sneers at all my friends, criticizes my appearance, and influences my parents to be very strict with me. What can I do?

A. Grin and bear it, mostly! But be sure that you aren't misinterpreting his feelings for you. He may not be your "kid brother," but he may be kidding you about your friends and your appearance just to get your feathers up. If you are flustered by his cracks about your friends, then he'll keep on teasing. If you're unruffled, his kidding will have lost its kick!

An older brother has "been around" more than you have. He has learned to be a better judge of character. He's had a chance to see what a "bad reputation" can do for some kids. If you realize that his criticism and "strictness" are really evidences of his "big brother" affection for you, then it won't be so hard to *grin and bear it!*



Do you measure up, as a person?

Chapter IV

PERSONALITY

Q. Why do some people click and others not?

A. The answer here is one word — *personality*, but it's such a big subject and so important that you can't afford to miss it. Let's dig into it now.

Personality is all the things that make you an individual, instead of one of the mob scene. It's the way you look, talk, and act. It's the sum total of Y-O-U. Not what you were born with, but *what you make of yourself*. If YOUR-SELF, INC. isn't a "going" concern, then it's high time you took stock and found out what's wrong.

Some people are born with more attractive facial features than others, but no one is *born with* habits of cleanliness and neatness or good taste in clothes. Nor is anyone *born with* a friendly manner, a pleasant speaking voice, or conversational ability! All of these things are *developed*, along with character and your general outlook on life.

The reason the subject stumps you is that you've just waked up to its importance. As a child, you naturally weren't concerned with what sort of a person you were. That's a grown-up concern. And the very fact that you *are* concerned now proves you're growing up. But you can't develop a knockout personality overnight. It takes time — and

care — and work. And it's worth all three!

As a starter, try this self-quiz. You're the scorekeeper *and* the referee. If you hesitate over your answer to any of these questions or if you land inside the parentheses, that's the signal to go to work on yourself.

Are you clean and neat in appearance? (Or do you skip the Good Grooming Dept. because it's too much trouble?)

Do you choose plain but well-tailored clothes and sane-and-sensible color combinations? (Or do you go for fads and fancies, the louder the better?)

Are you genuinely friendly towards everyone you know? (Or do you stick with "the chosen few" and skip the others?)

Do you try to speak clearly, intelligibly, and in an even voice? (Or do you blare forth "full volume," whine like an aching radio, or sputter like static?)

Do you "bone up" on people in the news, current events, sports, good books, radio, movies, music, etc., so that your conversation has "meat" in it? (Or do you limit your reading to the comic strips, listen only to radio comedians, and "Oh yeah?" anyone who converses seriously?)

Are you genuinely sincere in the



Clique — clique, smug, smug — ugh!

You, Inc.



Dizzy with dreams of popularity . . .

things you do and say? (Or do you "get by" with anything you can and think it's more fun to fool 'em?)

Do you always try to see the funny or human-interest side of things and do you let "slights" slide off your back like water? (Or do you go in for "moods," nurse pin pricks as if they were deep gashes, and expect other people to live up to your standards?)

You're telling yourself what's the score.

POPULARITY

Q. How can you "get in with the gang," if you're an outsider?

A. Probably the easiest way is to attach yourself to some insider and serve as a combination slave and stooge (or "yes" man). But is that the sort of person you want to be? And, after all, is "getting in with the gang" so important that you're willing to submerge your own personality? Hadn't you rather be known as Bill Fry, "a right sort of guy," to a lot of people than as "one of the gang" to a few?

Making many friends in high school is important, because it's your best chance to meet and know people within

your own age group and with mutual interests.

When you limit your friendships to one gang or group, you are limiting yourself in your knowledge of people. "How to get along with other people" is an important problem which you will have to meet both in school and out-of-school. How are you going to meet it? With your eyes wide open and with an understanding of different types of people? Or with a squint and your knowledge of people limited to a chosen few?

Q. I don't have any trouble making friends, but my friendships never last long. What can the matter be?

A. That's a large order and, unless you can consult some older person who knows you well and whose judgment you respect, you can solve the mystery better than anyone else. Maybe the following questions and your answers will give you a clue:

Are you, perhaps, a fast starter and a slow-downer? Do you put forth the first effort to make friends and then expect your newly-made friends to do the rest? Friendships won't last on a starvation diet. They thrive on thoughtfulness, attention, and mutual interests.

Are you loyal to your friends? Do you defend them when someone makes a slighting remark? What you say behind their backs doesn't always remain a secret.

Are you super-sensitive? Possessive? Jealous? Do you let little things get under your skin and stay there? Do you try to hoard your friends? Do you turn green when they have other plans?



Do you "dog-collar" your friends?



Self-pity won't lick loneliness.

Are you just a tag-along or do you really contribute something to your friendships? People get tired of tag-alongs. They never tire of those who keep in step and sometimes lead.

Are you a good talker on interesting subjects? Are you a good listener? Do you see the funny side of things? Do you appreciate the serious?

Are you? Aren't you? Do you? Don't you? Which?

Q. I have friends, both boys and girls, but when anything "special" happens, I'm left out. Last Saturday night, for instance, several couples in my crowd got together for dancing, but nobody asked me. What can I do about it?

A. First of all, don't let one or two "off-nights" give you a case of the glooms. They happen — those "off-nights" — even in the lives of the prom queens. A boy, having accepted several invitations to a certain girl's home, may ask her for a "special occasion" date in order to repay the obligation; he and another boy may double-date and choose girls who are close friends. And, of course, he may have gone overboard for another girl since you last saw him! That "overboard business" happens fast, you know.

Don't let "circumstances beyond control" give you the glooms, gripes, or grudges. Get busy and you'll forget to feel sorry for yourself. What about that batch of unanswered letters in the top drawer? What about that closet-cleaning job you've been threatening to do for lo, these many weeks? How about that new book that "everybody else" seems to have read or that series of sports articles you saved to read later? What's happened to that new recipe for cookies you meant to try

out before picnic time? How about tuning in on some news commentators, or forum discussion programs, so that you'll have some "meat" in your conversation? What about devoting one evening to making friends with your family: play "Base Hit" with Bud, help Mom plan next week's meals, or type up Dad's club secretary report for him? Your family are fun, when you get to know them!

Did you say you had "nothing to do"? Go on, you're kidding — yourself.

POISE

Q. I'm so shy that it hurts. Words seem to catch in my throat and won't come out. What can I do about it?

A. Take a deep breath, break through that shell of self-consciousness you've built around you, and step smack into the midst of things! Forget yourself by directing your attention *outside* instead of inside. Stop listening to your own voice and listen to those around you. Find out what other kids are talking about, thinking about, and doing. Then start talking, thinking, and doing *along with them*.

The next time you're near a group of talky-walkies, swing into step. You have just as much right to express your opinion of Crosby vs. Sinatra as the next fellow, your guess about the outcome of the Big Game is as good as anyone's and you may know *more* about aviation, acrobatics, or arrowheads than the others. If you do, don't keep it a secret. If you don't, ask questions. Then, at least, the others will know that you're



Wallflower blues — not a hit tune.

awake and interested in what's going on.

But don't stop with learning to use your vocal cords in public. If another player is needed for the softball game, *you* step up. If another scene-shifter is needed for the school play or a dishwasher for K.P. after the Hallowe'en party, *you* volunteer for the job. Nobody expects you to be an expert. Your participation, not your performance, is what counts. And don't flatter yourself that everybody's watching you. They aren't. They can't. They're too busy doing their own part to watch how you do yours, too busy making a few mistakes of their own to notice yours. If you want to find out how unimportant your boners are, just try telling about one of them sometime and see if somebody doesn't go you one bigger and better and bonier!

Don't wear your feelings on the outside. If they stick out like a porcupine's needles, they're going to bump into plenty of trouble. Keep them below the surface where they belong. Pin pricks are not painful, but if you wear your feelings on the outside, they may seem like major wounds.

Decide on some one thing you *like* to do and, consequently, might be good at. Then get good at it! It doesn't matter whether your choice is ping-pong, tiddly-winks, telling jokes, or chasing butterflies. And you don't have to be super-duper to do it. You don't have to be another Bob Hope to tell a joke but, if you can tell one better than Butch Smithers, you'll gain self-confidence and get rid of self-consciousness.



Time flies, unless you organize it.

TAKING STOCK ... of time

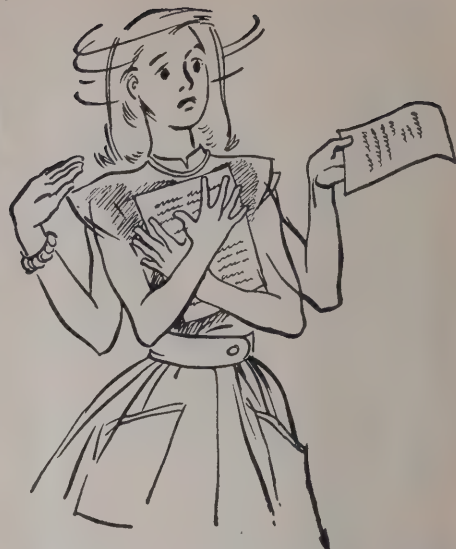
Q. My problem is finding time to do the things I have to (like homework) and still do the things I want to. Isn't there some way to solve this problem?

A. You're always in a jam. Late with everything from homework to birthday gifts, short on spending money, and "balled up" on dates. You really meant to do that homework last night but, after three telephone calls and two radio programs, there simply wasn't time. Your pocketbook seemed healthy enough at the beginning of the week — and you haven't been robbed — but Something Happened. You knew you had a note of Dorrie's birthday date somewhere, but who'd have thought it would pop up in your science notebook two weeks *after* her birthday? You hadn't realized it had been a month since your last letter to Skeets until you got his sizzler yesterday! And how you could have made two dates for tomorrow night is still a mystery — or is it?

Your problem isn't so much "finding time" as it is *organizing your time*. Set yourself up as a business, doing your home work during "office hours," operating at a profit (time left to have fun), and running smoothly. First of all, you need office space. Either a desk or a table with a drawer and bookshelf nearby. Next, check your supplies. Don't waste time running hither and thither for pencil, paper, pen, ink, and notebook. Keep your supplies in your office and, when you start to do your homework, do it! Don't let your mind drift to a dozen other things; don't stop to make phone calls or listen to the radio. You can't mix business and entertainment unless you're in the entertainment business!

Those forgotten birthday dates and long overdue letters can be taken care of by business methods, too. A desk calendar and a memo pad (home-made, if you please) should be a part of your office equipment. Write down birthday dates and other "musts" on your calendar pad and, to be on the safe side, write reminders of approaching dates in advance of the actual dates.

Next Saturday, rain or shine, clean out the clutter-ups. Transfer all vital statistics to your calendar pad, all



Four hands would come in handy!

names, addresses, and telephone numbers to a special address book. Sort your letters, bunch the "savings" together and file in a shoebox; put the "unanswered" in a large envelope and keep them within reaching distance until answered. Make another file for clippings, still another for snapshots. A special box for souvenirs.

Set up a schedule for "office hours" and stick to it. You can't be a smooth-running individual if you don't tend to your business.

... of money

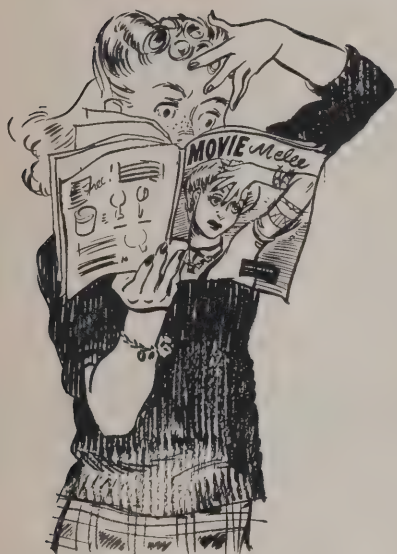
Q. I'm not a spendthrift and I make money of my own, but I'm always broke before the end of the week. I'd like to save something for the future, but how can I?

A. Back up and start budgeting! You won't be able to save anything, if you wait for the leftovers.

The right way to start a budget is to keep a careful record of income and "outgo" for several weeks. Classify your expenditures (*room and board*, if you contribute to the household fund; *lunches*; *school activities*; *clothing*; *entertainment*, etc.). At the end of each week total each classification. This preliminary investigation is for the purpose of telling yourself *how* you are spending your money. Now you're ready to call a meeting with yourself to discuss finances. Talk it over from all angles and decide what classifications

should have "A" priorities in your budget. (If you're serious about savings, here's your chance!) No doubt you'll have to do some juggling to make income balance against "outgo" and savings. No doubt you'll have to cut down on some "luxury" or pleasure items.

... of your looks



Leave movie poses for the movies.

Q. Your advice on keeping "office hours" for study has made my homework much easier and speedier. Could you help me plan some sort of "beauty routine"?

A. Don't believe the old adage that beauty is only skin deep. Beauty is much more than that; it's the outer reflection of an inner rosy glow — of health and personality. You don't have to have Bergman features or a Grable figure to achieve it. But you do have to work at it — from the inside out.

Any "beauty routine" should begin just where a football player's training begins — with sane and sensible eating and sleeping habits. You can't expect to have a peaches-and-cream complexion if you feed it a steady diet of chocolate-marshmallow-nut sundaes; you can't expect to have a gleam in your eyes if you have to prop them open with toothpicks. "Go steady" with fruits, vegetables, milk, whole-grain cereals, and protein or protein substitutes. Get the 8-8 habit: eight glasses of water every day and eight hours of

sleep every night. That's the inside story of your rosy glow.

Your daily routine of personal cleanliness is just as important. Here are the "musts":

Twice-a-day (morning and night): Scrub your face with a rough washcloth, mild soap and warm water; brush your teeth — north-south, *not* east-west!

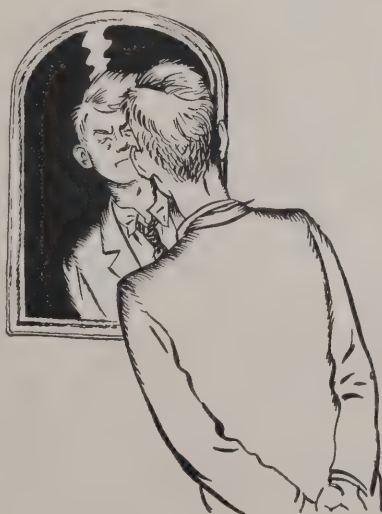
Once-a-day (morning or night): Take a bath and brush your hair 100 strokes — count 'em!

Once-a-week: Shampoo your hair (preferably with a liquid shampoo) and manicure your nails.

In-between: Use a deodorant underarms, check hemlines, shoulder straps, missing buttons and snaps, and seams in hose *every time you dress*. Wash your hands and clean your fingernails *every time they need it!*

Q. I suppose boys would think it "sissy" to use a deodorant, but isn't there something they could do to "avoid offending" with perspiration odors?

A. There's something *everybody* can do — keep clean by washing underarms frequently and by wearing clean clothes consistently! Deodorants and anti-perspirants are no more sissy than any other good grooming aid; shaving cream, for instance. Perhaps if boys understood what deodorants are, they wouldn't think it "sissy" to use them. Deodorants are *not* perfumes. They are chemically compounded of substances which deodorize the secretions of the sweat glands. How? By destroying the bacteria of the skin which cause perspiration to decompose and produce an unpleasant odor. You can't stop perspiration, although an anti-perspirant will keep it under control in most cases.



Better to look in your own mirror.

You *can* stop perspiration odors by bathing, deodorizing, and wearing clean clothes.

Q. Do boys really object to girls' using makeup? They don't want us to look like ghosts, do they?

A. No. Nor like clowns, either! The complaint of most boys (*and parents*) against makeup is not its use, but its *overuse*. The test of good makeup is that no one knows you're using it, yet some teen-agers look like a bad ad for house paint!

Take Donna, for instance. She's a brunette with olive skin. But because she wants to look like a certain movie star with a peaches-and-cream complexion, Donna piles on cake makeup, rouges her cheeks with odd blobs, and smears on lipstick of an exotic shade. To make matters worse, Donna read in a movie mag that the certain movie star uses a "night cream," so Donna does ditto, adding excess oil to an already oily skin. Result: pimples and blackheads. Donna's treatment: pinch and squeeze and cover-up with makeup. End result: blemishes and clogged pores.

The basis of all good complexions is a *clean, healthy skin*. Healthy from the inside — out. Clean from the soap-and-water scrub treatment.

Teen-age skins seldom need a powder base unless they have a tendency to be dry and flaky in winter weather. A good hand-lotion is the answer.

If you use lipstick, choose a light shade, a small amount, and follow the natural outline of your lips. Smooth it out carefully with a lipstick brush (preferably) or your little finger; blot with cleansing tissue. Rouge is unnecessary except for very special "bright lights" occasions, when a tiny bit should be applied high on each cheekbone and blended in so that there are no edges.

A brush is better for the eyebrows than a pencil. Brush up and over into a smooth line. Don't pluck unless there are some very wild hairs. Don't use mascara on your lashes unless you're the heroine in the Senior play!

Powder goes on once-over-lightly with a *clean* puff or a fresh piece of cotton. Brush off the excess with *another* puff or piece of cotton.

Good makeup never looks made-up.

Q. Can you give me some simple rules for posture? My mother says I walk like a camel.

A. Stand up straight! Not stiff, *straight!* Try it this way, reading from toe to top: feet parallel, weight on

whole foot; knees slightly relaxed; abdomen flat; chest high; shoulders relaxed; chin in, head up.

Sometimes tall girls adopt a slouch with hunched shoulders, thinking their height will be less noticeable. But any posture defect attracts notice — of the wrong kind. Don't worry about your height, whether you're long or short of it. Look at the movie and stage stars. Some are tall; some are short. But all of those who rate near the top in personal attractiveness have good posture.

Stage makeup is too exaggerated for street wear; but a good stage walk is something you can use anywhere. It takes practice, as any stage star will tell you. Here's how:

Swing your legs forward from the hip, pendulum-like; keep your knees close together and take long steps; reach forward with your toes, but place the entire foot on the floor; rise quickly on the toe, making almost a 2-beat count.

Don't let your head bob; keep it firmly in place — on straight shoulders.

... of your clothes

Q. It may sound silly, but my clothes never seem to match or to be right for certain occasions. Isn't there something I can do about it?

A. Your clothes problem doesn't sound silly at all, and there is something you can do about it. Most likely your trouble is that you haven't tried to team-up your wardrobe. Either that or you've let your heart rule your head in buying clothes!

Smart girls use the "wardrobe plan" to make their clothes mix-or-match successfully. Start with a list of the clothes you have: their color, types and purposes. Try to swing them into line, so that you'll have at least one well-matched school outfit and another well-matched date costume. Then, when you buy anything new, make it fit into the line-up.

One suit — plus blouses, sweaters, and dickeys — equals many costumes. One dress with a slight shift of emphasis (different collar, scarf, belt or jewelry) can double for school and dates. Team-up your clothes!

When buying, remember the occasions for which you will need certain clothes. Will your coat have to go to school, church, parties, and dances?



Let the camel do the camel-walk!

Then choose a style and color which will suit many occasions. When in doubt, choose a tailored style and a dark or neutral color. That's playing safe.

Base your color scheme on one or two colors; preferably a prime color and a neutral, such as green and brown or red and gray. Learn to balance warm colors (red, orange, yellow) with cool or neutral colors. Calm down your red dress with navy or brown accessories. Pep up your dark green or gray skirt with a yellow sweater.

Q. Why don't you give boys some advice on clothes? I'm no sissy, zoot-suiter, nor "Frankie boy," but I'd like to know more about choosing clothes and being a "neat dresser."

A. Clothes don't make the man, it's true, but neatness is just as important in good grooming for boys as for girls. And you like your dates to dress appropriately for the occasion, don't you? Then return the compliment by being especially well-groomed for special occasions. Don't show up for a date or a party looking like a *Lil' Abner* character!

For dressy occasions, stay on the conservative side! Suits in dark or neutral tones (blue, brown, tan or gray) are neater than your favorite plaids or checks. You can add color pep with shirt-tie-and-socks combinations.

Nature is tops in color scheming, but then she's been at it a long time! You haven't, and a thorough knowledge of color harmony would require a great deal of study. Your best bet is to observe well-dressed people around you and to conduct a few home experiments

before a mirror. You will develop pet preferences, but here are some suggestions of good color combinations: brown (suit), tan (shirt), and green or yellow (tie); grey, blue, and red; navy blue, light blue, and maroon. And a clean white shirt is always a safe bet.

For a "neat dresser" it isn't so much the cost as the upkeep that counts! Take a tip from the lads in service who know the value of clothes brushes, cleaning, sewing, and shoe-shining. Baggy trousers, wrinkled coats, wilted collars, frayed-edge cuffs, sloppy socks and muddy shoes are *not* "neat dressing."

Q. Should girls always wear high heels and hose for a date?

A. Certainly not! High school dates often include bowling, biking, football games or scavenger hunts where sports-wear is the appropriate garb. In fact, there are only a few occasions when wearing hose is a "must" and there is no occasion that demands high heels. Low or medium-heeled shoes can be just as dressy — and much more comfortable — than three-inch spikes.

The best rule to follow is to make your complete outfit match. Wear socks and saddle shoes (or moccasins) with school and sports clothes. Wear hose and dressy shoes for dress-up dates.

And don't think you have to wear exaggerated shoe styles in order to appear grown-up or glamorous. If you've ever watched some of the girls who stagger around on stilts (particularly the open-toe, open-heel styles), you'll get the idea — and it won't be glamorous!



Most boys could profit by a study of color combinations and materials.

How to alienate people in one "reachy" lesson.



AROUND SCHOOL

Q. I'm a new student in my school. Just from looking, it seems to me that the kids who get around are the ones who push their way. Is this true?

A. You know Speed Simpson. Everyone does. Maybe his nickname isn't Speed. Maybe it's Slug or Flat-top or Zombie. But there's one in every school — sometimes more. Speed's the guy who thinks he's the Big Noise around school. He's the wise guy, the tough hombre, the great dictator who makes his own rules and expects other people to live by them.

At school games Speed's idea of sportsmanship is to boo the opposing team's good plays and to pick a fight with someone on the sidelines. In the classroom Speed's main purpose is sabotage of the teacher's efforts.

Offhand, you might say that Speed's a Big Deal. He's the center of attraction, the chief topic of conversation. But is that what counts? Look closely before you leap to conclusions!

Is Speed the center of attention because he's an A-1 attraction or because he's a show-off? Do people listen because of what Speed has to say or because he drowns out everyone else with his loud-mouthed talking?

Speed may be able to push his way out front for a while but, *sooner* than later, his own tactics will slap him back



"NO!" Does that sound familiar?

Public Relations

Chapter V

ADULT AUDIENCE

Q. Why do older people criticize adolescents so much? Particularly when we're in public? We're only having a good time.

A. It just doesn't make sense, does it? Adults tell you that you're "too young" to make your own decisions; then, when you object to decisions that have been made for you, they say, "Don't be childish; you're grown-up now."

When you're in a gay mood and having a good time, they complain that you're scatter-brained and silly. "Be more serious," they say. Yet when you're in dead earnest about life and love and such, they tell you *not* to be so serious — there's plenty of time for that later!

You're "too young" for this; "too old" for that. . . . Don't be silly; don't be serious. . . . Don't . . . *don't* . . . until you honestly don't know what you're supposed to be.

All right, so you're having a good time . . . but often it's a good and noisy time. Frequently, the better the time, the noisier! And adults don't always get the connection. You're so busy having a good time that you don't get the noise!

You know without being told (don't you?) that you jump from one extreme

to another. Either you're completely "sold" on something or else it leaves you absolutely cold. That's natural; you yourselves are jumping from childhood to adulthood. That's adolescence.

But your "extreme" reactions are reflected in your behavior. When something strikes you as funny, it's a howl — and you howl with laughter or you get the giggles. In your eagerness to attract the attention of the gang, you sometimes shout or talk much louder than is necessary. You push and shove, not from a desire to be impolite or thoughtless of others, but simply because you're in a hurry to get there!

Loud laughter and loud talk, pushing and shoving — these are the things that most often cause adults to criticize adolescents. They see you on the bus or on the street, laughing and talking, and they think that you're always loud and boisterous, thoughtless and frivolous. Which isn't true, of course. You have plenty of serious moments, quiet moments, and times when you are thinking of others. But public appearance counts, and it's much easier to make a good impression than it is to erase a bad one.

You can laugh without howling or giggling; you can talk without shouting; you can find standing room on the bus or a place in line at the movies without pushing and shoving. Take your manners with you wherever you go. Don't save them for special occasions — you'll be out of practice, if you do.

Of course, you can't be responsible for the behaviour of all your companions. But, if you set a good example — if you refuse to join in the horseplay — the others will probably get the idea.

in place. At first, the kids in his classroom may laugh at his wise cracks, but a steady diet of gags is likely to be more boring than the lesson. Before long, they'll realize that Speed's "nerve" at school games is really poor sportsmanship and that he's giving the whole school a black eye. The girls who fall for his strong-arm tactics will soon give him the brush for boys who show polish and consideration.

Speed is playing a losing game of poor sportsmanship.

What if he's not interested in the classroom discussion? Others are, and they have more right to be attentive than he has to be inattentive. What if he'd rather make merry than solve equations? Perhaps his teacher would, too. But she's doing her job in teaching math. Speed's A. W. O. L. from his job, which is *learning*.

If Speed thinks that his booing and fighting at school games are bravery, then he'd better think again. It takes more spunk to be a good loser than a winner. Good plays are good plays, no matter which side makes them, and they deserve to be cheered.

The most effective treatment for Speed and his sort is to ignore them. Show-offs need an audience and encouragement, else their efforts are wasted. If no one watches Speed fight, he won't get a kick out of it. If no one joins him in booing, he'll soon give up. If all the *good sports* work as hard at cheering as Speed does at booing, he'll find himself drowned out!

THE OTHER SEX

Q. Do girls really go for the "treat 'em rough" technique?

A. According to the girls, No. 1 on their Date Parade is the boy who shows respect for his date; is well-mannered, natural, and neat in appearance; has a sense of humor and a lively personality. And no wolves, please!

Does that sound like a "treat 'em rough" technique???

Along with such talk goes the false notion that good manners are sissy. Yet, if you look around, you'll find that the most popular boys (*with boys*, too) are the ones who show consideration for others.

Take Tom Worth, for example. Tom isn't a sissy. He's captain of the football team. But, when Tom dates a girl, he



Speed, the one-man jeering section!

gets farther than the front fender to help her out of the car. Going into the Corner Drug he opens the door for her to go in first — without a shove, and in her home he isn't glued to the chair when she comes into the room. On the telephone Tom skips all the childish tricks (such as "Guess Who" games) and asks simply: "How about a date tonight?" Nine times out of ten he gets the right answer, too.

Q. Does a boy have to have "a line" or "a technique" to keep a girl interested in him?

A. Such a notion is as false as the one that girls have to pet in order to be popular. And a reputation for being a line-tosser is about as hard to get rid of as a reputation for petting. Some girls may swallow a line or temporarily fall for a technique ("make 'em jealous," etc.), but they soon learn. What they



"Treat-'em rough" ne'er won a lady.

learn, they don't like. Sincerity and a variety of interests are the answers to *what keeps a girl interested*.

THE ART OF DIPLOMACY

Q. Maybe I'm a worry-bird, but it's so hard to decide what's right and what's wrong. For instance, there's a boy in my class whom I like very much. Several times he's asked to see my paper — once, recently, during a test. I don't want him to think I'm a prude. What can I do?

A. Let's think that one through. Let's think through every problem. No one knows all the answers. No one can give you a ready-made solution for any problem in human relationships, because no two problems are exactly alike. You yourself can solve most of your problems as well as anyone else, *if* you take the time and trouble to think them through to the end, *then* make up your mind what to do.

About this cheating problem (don't cringe — no matter how you soften the word, it's still cheating!), consider both sides of the question: yours and the boy's. It's true that you can make a final decision only about your own course of action, but your decision may affect his.

You have three alternatives. You can duck the issue entirely, let him see your paper, and excuse yourself on the grounds that you have to be a "good sport" in order to be popular. But is that the sort of popularity you want — a popularity based on "favors" and return obligations?

You can refuse point-blank to let him see your paper and strike him off your list as a sponger.

Or you can postpone the discussion of the lend-lease deal until after class, then tell him honestly how you feel. All the arguments, except that of being a so-called "good sport," are on your side.

What is cheating? The dictionary says it's deception or the act of misleading. Offhand, it sounds harmless, doesn't it? But, if we cut the kidding, what have we? Cheating (or deception) is laying claim to anything that isn't actually yours. It's stealing.

Some forms of stealing are punishable by law. Others aren't, and we kid ourselves into thinking they aren't serious. But they are. Stealing information is just as damaging to the individual as stealing property. You might as well

have a bowl of jello for a head, if you're going to learn by lend-lease!

Q. Recently I was invited to my girl-friend's home to a party. Some of us fellows "got funny" and broke a table lamp. Now my girl-friend says her mother won't let me come there any more. What can I do? Is it too late to apologize?

A. It's *never* too late to apologize, but the sooner you do it, the better. Don't hide behind your g.f.'s plaid skirt, though. Do it on your own! Spruce up for the occasion and march right up to the front door. Even if "that dream walking" meets you at the door, it's her mother you came to see this time, so ask for her. No matter how much of an audience you have, don't let the words stick in your epiglottis! "Mrs. Bushwick, I came to apologize for breaking the table lamp and to say that I'd like to pay for the damage."

The chances are, Mrs. Bushwick won't let you pay for repairs or replace-



Stagefright — painful but not fatal.

ment but the fact that you have offered to will take the sting out of the situation. But don't stop with an apology and an offer to foot the bill for damages. Here's your chance to erase a bad impression and build up a good one! Stick around and show her that there's something in your upper story besides "funny business." Chat with her about school, books, movies, radio, your plans for the future or your serious interests in life. You can devote one hour — or one evening to your g.f.'s parents without wasting time. You may gain "time-out" with their darling daughter!

Q. How should I handle this situation? I broke off with a certain girl and now I'd like to go out with her again, but I'm ashamed to ask her.

A. First of all, swallow the lump of pride that's sticking in your throat! And keep it down. If the crackup was your fault, those two little words ("I'm sorry") are the only tools you can use to repair the damage. And they usually work. But don't expect them to work *like magic*. There's always the chance that, even if your apology is accepted, things won't be "as they were." You can't go back to yesterday and find it waiting for you. You're starting a new day with your apology. You'd better wear a new and tougher skin, so that your feelings won't get hurt so easily. You'd better show an even disposition, so you won't have a real smashup.

Q. My girl friend is very jealous of me. She tries to "beat my time" with boys, even though I'm sure she just wants to put them on her "sucker list." What can I do?

A. Keep your head on your shoulders in a normal, natural position. Don't hit the roof; don't start ducking. And be sure, in your own mind, that you aren't jealous of her! This business of tagging "Personal Property" signs on people won't work. Possessiveness is the beginning of jealousy — and jealousy is the beginning-of-the-end of friendships. If it's true that your girl friend is a Green-Eyed Monster, don't try to match your color scheme with hers. Be clear-eyed. Your good example may show her the way to play fair. And fair-play is the *only way* to keep friendly relations with boys. If a boy sees that he's in for a henfight, he'll fly the coop and let the hens have it!

Q. Sometimes at parties I meet older boys on whom I'd like to make a good impression. But I always feel so nervous that I'd like to run away and hide. Can you give me some advice?

A. Stop striving for the impossible — to be older than you are — and be satisfied to "act your age." You can't "put on" an air of sophistication and get by with it; you can't grow up in a hurry. Admit these facts to yourself, then get busy being your best self all the time. Try to learn something new every day. Don't be satisfied with reading the headlines; dig into the background stories of the news; tackle the editorial page. Don't try to "get into" a conversation unless you have something interesting to add. It's better to be a good listener than a poor talker.

Q. For some reason my girl friend's parents don't like me. I think they've heard that I'm "wild" — which isn't true. But they won't allow my girl to have dates with me, so we've been meeting away from her home. I don't like the situation, but what can I do?

A. Face the music! Find out from your g.f. just *why* her parents don't like you. Insist that she be absolutely frank; listen carefully and calmly to everything she says. Then, at least, you'll know what sort of music you have to face.

Go to see your g.f.'s parents. No matter whether your g.f. is present or not,



A henfight drives the roosters away.

you do the talking. And talk straight. Tell them what you believe their objections are. If there is any truth in what they've heard, admit it — to yourself and to them. No one is perfect; everyone makes mistakes. But the guy who can face his mistakes and profit by them is the one who gets ahead.

Beware of bragging, but don't be afraid to talk about yourself. You can prove by your seriousness that you're neither "a silly kid" nor "a wild buck." Talk about your career plans; talk about the people you like and admire; talk about the mistakes you've made and what you've learned from them. What you say about the sort of person you'd like to be — your aims and am-

bitions — is important in making a good impression on older people.

Q. What can you do when people tell untrue stories about you? Somebody told my girl friend such a story, and she believed it.

A. The best treatment for “babbling brooks” is to prove by your conduct, in general, that their babblings aren’t worth *anyone’s* attention. But, in case of an emergency situation, such as yours, you’d better be specific, as well as general. Ask your girl friend, either in person or by note, to let you talk to her for a few minutes after school. If you handle the situation straightforwardly, without peevishness or temper, she’ll tell you exactly what she heard. Your simple but sincere statement that the story isn’t true should be enough, if she’s the right sort of girl friend.

You can go further, if you like and if you aren’t likely to blow your top. You can go to the person who started the story, or anyone who repeated it. With the same straightforwardness and with a sense of good humor, you can say, “I hear there’s a story about me going the rounds. It may be a good story, but I’m not stuck with it, because it isn’t true.”

Rumor is a strange creature and its main characteristic is that it runs wild. It may start as a simple sentence but by repetition and addition — or even

intonation — it becomes a complex situation. Often the repeaters are not malicious; they’re merely careless. They will care less about repeating rumors, if you treat such stories lightly and prove that they’re hokum.

MANNERS

Q. When a boy takes a girl out to dinner, who leads the way to the table? Does each one order his own dinner? If the boy checks his coat, does he check hers also? How much should he tip?

A. If there’s a head-waiter (or hostess) to seat you, wait at the entrance until he comes to your rescue. If you have a choice of where to sit, say so, but don’t raise the roof if you can’t get “that table by the window” or a certain booth. Most restaurants are so crowded these days that you’re lucky to sit *anywhere*.

The Girl enters first, following the head-waiter to the table where either the h.-w. or her date seats her and helps her take off her coat. If there’s a checkroom, boys always check their topcoats and hats; girls usually prefer to drape their coats over the back of the chair. Pocketbooks and gloves go in the lap or on an extra chair at the table. “No parking” on top of the table.

Your waiter will be glad to pronounce, interpret, and describe any dish on the menu and, if you want to know the difference between *chop suey* and *chow mein*, ask him. On one page of the menu you’ll usually find *table d’hôte* dinners (at a fixed price for several courses, the price sometimes depending on the choice of the main course) and on the other page *a la carte* (or separate) dishes. Unless you’re going to be satisfied with a one-dish meal, such as *spaghetti with meat balls*, better steer clear of the *a la carte* page. The portions are larger, but the price is higher!

As host, you should take the initiative by making suggestions as to what to order (the better to be able to pay for it, too). After your date has decided, you give the order to the waiter: “We’d like two dinners with 2 *fruit cups*, 1 *baked mackerel* and 1 *roast lamb*. . .” and so on, through the choice of vegetables, salads, and beverages. You can order your dessert now or later.

When you have finished your meal and are ready to leave, ask the waiter to bring you the check. Don’t make a



Girls go for courtesy and manners.

major mathematical problem out of it, but do check the charges. Any mistakes should be reported to your waiter. Put the money and the check on the tray (or table) and add at least ten per cent of the check for the tip — never less than ten cents per person.

Then there’s the hat-check girl. She gets a dime — not your last, let’s hope!

Q. Are there any simple rules for good table manners? Whenever I’m a guest in someone else’s home, I get confused. I’m always afraid I’ll do the wrong thing and it spoils my good time.

A. First, don’t be a worry wart about manners. You’ll not only spoil your good time but you’ll be as dull as a rusty razor blade to those around you. If you’re always in a stew about which spoon to use, you’ll only draw attention to the fact that you don’t know the answer. Easy does it! Everybody makes mistakes but the guy or the gal who can take a mistake with good humor is the winner.

When you are a guest in someone else’s home, remember one thing: *follow the leader*. Your hostess certainly ought to know the silver line-up. If she doesn’t, that’s her mistake, not yours. Usually the silver is arranged so that you work from the outside *in*. But, if the outside fork is a salad fork and the first course is meat and vegetables, better keep your eye on the hostess until she makes up your mind for you. Never



Two hearts with different ideas! She — the menu; her date — the bill.

start eating before she does, the better to avoid mistakes.

Some people go after food the hard way by holding forks as if they were spears, knives as if they were daggers! For scooping up food, hold both fork and spoon handles like a pencil. For steadying a piece of meat, hold the fork handle in the palm of your hand and point the prongs down into the meat, using the index finger as a lever.

Hold the knife handle in the same palm-of-the-hand position for both cutting and spreading (butter on bread, for instance). And don't try to *saw* your way through a piece of meat.

When not in use, knife and fork are placed on the right outer rim of the plate and the spoon, bowl up, in the saucer or on the plate. None of your silver should be left hanging off your plate, gangplank style.

Even if you have strict instructions at home to fold your napkin after a meal, you don't do the same when you're away from home. As a guest or in a restaurant, you aren't expected to be back for the next meal. Your napkin is left, unfolded, to the right of your plate.

Use your fingers for eating olives, pickles, cookies and cakes of the non-goosey varieties — and for removing seeds and fishbones from your mouth. But don't make that last operation something for the dentist's chair! Eating is never glamorous; the idea is to make it as inconspicuous as possible.

Q. If you accidentally spill something, what should you do?

A. That depends on *who* or *what* gets the benefit of the spill! If it's the tablecloth that gets a dunking, tell your hostess you're sorry. The chances are, in this case, that the damage isn't beyond repair. If it's a crack-up in the china dept., then you'd better add an offer to replace or repair.

If *someone* gets the dunking, apologize to him or her. But don't agonize over the situation; don't give a play-by-play account of how it happened; don't fuss over your victim! Everyone knows you didn't plan it. If you say so, everyone assumes that you're sincerely sorry.

Q. Boys are always complaining of girls' primping and powdering in public. Don't they want us to look our best?

A. Yes, but they prefer pepper, rather than face powder, on potatoes — and salt, rather than hair strands, on hamburger! Boys think (and rightly so) that there is a time and place for face fixing and hair-doing. The time is before they

arrive for their date; the place, your bedroom mirror. They aren't averse to your "stopping by" the ladies' room at a dance, the movies, or in a restaurant, provided you don't stay all night. But they don't mind the wind-blown effect of your hair as much as you do. And they say that, if you wouldn't *pile* on lipstick, you wouldn't have that half-eaten-off look!

Q. Should a boy help his date in boarding a bus or trolley? In getting off, who leaves the bus first?

A. In boarding a bus, you help — *not* heave — her up the steps. A girl rightly objects to a *jujitsu* treatment, but she appreciates a slight lift with your hand



Top to bottom: Depts. of Confusion, Exaggeration, Grim Determination.

at her elbow. If there are vacant seats, lucky you! But don't become so engrossed with each other that you forget to offer your seat to a woman, an older man, or anyone laden with packages or accompanied by a very young child. Courtesy counts — even when it isn't directed to your date.

In leaving, you get off the bus first, the better to keep your date from stepping into a mud-puddle or missing the curb. Here again — no acrobatics; just a helping hand, *thanks*.

Q. When a boy takes a girl to the movies, who goes down the aisle first? Should he help her take off her coat? Is it okay to hold hands in the movies?

A. You've bought the tickets while your date waited at the entrance door, or, if there was a long line of ticket purchasers, in the theater lobby. You've followed her into the theater, handing the tickets to the ticket-taker.

If there is an usher, tell how many seats you want and your preference (or your date's) as to where they're located. Your date follows the usher down the aisle and you bring up the rear. Take whatever seats the usher offers you, trusting him to select the best available. *Don't* stand in the aisle and argue. *Don't* desert him halfway down the aisle and start scouting on your own!

If there is no usher, stand at the back of the theater until your eyes become adjusted to the darkness. Decide where you're headed before you lead the way. In a whisper or low tone ask your date, "Is this okay?" before you disturb those already seated. When crossing in front of others, say "Excuse us, please" and lead the way to the seats. Your date follows.

A boy takes off his hat (if any) and topcoat before he sits down. Put your hat in the special rack under the seat and hold your coat on your lap. Help your date remove her coat, after she sits down, and spread her coat collar over the back of her chair.

If a person in front of you (or your date) fails to remove her hat, giving you a befeathered or beflowered view of the screen, ask her pleasantly, "Would you mind removing your hat?" Then thank her when she complies with your request.

Don't take food into the theater. Refreshment time comes later. Don't talk. You can give a much better opinion of the movie *after* you've seen it. If your date chatters, whisper to her, "Tell me later." You paid to see the movie — and so did the others around you.

There's no law against holding hands in the movies, but the theater owners obviously didn't have this "added attraction" in mind when they built theater seats. Holding hands over that arm-rest barricade can be very uncomfortable. It can be almost disagreeable, if your affection breaks out in perspiration and your hands are clammy. And, if you get a return squeeze of the fingers from the "object of your affections," how can you be sure that *you* inspired it? Maybe it was Van Johnson, Robert Walker, Dana Andrews, Dick Haymes — or Sinatra!

Q. Should boys remove their hats in an elevator when women are present?

A. Yes, if possible! Sometimes elevators in department stores or large office buildings are so crowded that even moving a muscle is impossible — and moving an arm high enough to take off your hat might easily result in your neighbor's getting a poke in the eye. Don't endanger life and limb but, whenever possible, be courteous enough to remove your hat in the presence of women. It is a mark of respect which women always appreciate.

Q. Should a girl stand when her parents' friends come into the room or is this considered old-fashioned?

A. Respect and consideration for older people are *never* considered old-fashioned. When an older person comes into the room, both girls and boys should stand — and should remain standing until the older person is seated.

Among guests of your own age, boys rise whether the newcomer is a girl or a boy. But girls (except the hostess) remain seated.



It's the usher's job to lead the way down the aisle. Let him do it!

the dance was the high spot of your visit.

Hank's a boy you met at the state press convention. Later he sent you a copy of his school paper. Write and thank him for it, tell him how you liked it, and send him a sample of your school paper.

First letters should be full of "meat," but minus baloney. There is no better way to begin any letter than "Dear Don" or "Hi, Tony!" There is no better way to end a letter than "Yours sincerely."

Write first, if you like, but if you fail to get an answer, don't pursue. You stuck your neck out — now pull it back in place!

Q. There's a girl (there always is) who lives about 30 miles from here. I was never introduced formally, but went with my sister when she dropped in to see the girl's sister whom she'd met at summer camp. (Complicated, isn't it?) I haven't seen the girl since. Here's my problem. I'd like to write to her (The Girl) without seeming to be a drooling wolf (I'm really bashful). Should I write her or should I duck my head in a pail of cold water????

A. Even if you haven't been formally

introduced, your sisters are good friends and you aren't a stranger to The Girl. Go ahead and write to her. Make your letter as informal as your meeting (Remember me? I'm the boy who, etc.). If she doesn't answer, that's when you use the pail of cold water, clear your brain, and look around for a girl within walking distance!

by phone

Q. Talking on the telephone bothers me. People can't understand me and some of my friends say I sound "snappish."

A. Try speaking slowly and distinctly. Remember that your telephone listener doesn't have the advantage of watching you, seeing your gestures, and the changing expressions of your face. It's better to take more time, saying something *once*, than it is to waste your time in repetition.

Speak directly into the mouthpiece with your lips not more than half an inch away and talk no louder than you would in ordinary conversation. Too loud talking often causes a blurred sound.

Don't take your pet peeves, family feuds, or ill humors to the telephone with you. The impression you make over the phone is just as important as the one you make in person. Say "hello" as if you meant it, answer questions pleasantly not grudgingly, and don't yell for "Butch!" into the mouthpiece.

When you're making a call, don't ask, "Whozzis?" Ask immediately for the person you wish to talk to and thank your listener for the courtesy of calling that person to the phone.



Go ahead and write. Don't duck!

COMMUNICATION ... by letter

Q. Should a boy write to a girl first, or is it okay for the girl to write to the boy first?

A. What difference does it make? You don't (I hope) wait for your friends to speak to you first and, after all, letter-writing is a form of saying "hello."

More important than "who writes first" is *what you have to say*. If your letter is merely an attention-getter, it has only a bare chance of success. If there is a real reason for your writing and you do a good job of it, you'll have the receiver crying for "More!"

Tony recently donned a uniform and is far away from home. Perhaps he's been too busy with K.P. to write. So you write first, give him the news of all the gang and any interesting or amusing happenings about town since he left.

Don's a swell guy you met while visiting Aunt Mamie in Centerville last weekend. He took you to a dance and showed you a wonderful time. Okay, write and tell him that you still remember the fun you had together and that

Don't hang on the phone by the hour. It bores the party at the other end and it doesn't improve your family relationships. Say what you have to say and call it quits — always signing off with "Goodbye." No matter what sweet nothings you've spoken, they'll curdle if you sign off with a slam-bam!



He won't call back, if you slam-bam.

... person-to-person

Q. What do girls like to talk about? I get along okay, talking to other fellows, but girls don't seem to be interested in things like aviation, science, and football.

A. Some of them are — but definitely. Sooner or later you'll bump into a girl whose ambition is to be an aviatrix, a meteorologist, or a bacteriologist. But, generally speaking, girls don't like to spend the evening talking about azimuths, wind currents, or bugs. Give them the human interest rather than the technical angle and they'll be interested in almost any subject you want to talk about. Tell them the story of a pilot or a scientist and they'll be all ears.

About football (or other sports), most girls will be only yawningly interested in a rehash of yesterday's game. They're sorry the school team lost, but they don't give a hoot as to

whether or not the game could have been won by an "end-around play to the weak side with a double lateral." They think the captain of the team is wonderful, but they're much more interested in whether he's recovered from his leg injury than in whether he should have refused the penalty in the fourth quarter.

They'll go for your sense of humor and they'll listen with interest to your life's ambitions. They won't fall for rank flattery, but they're invariably vulnerable to genuine compliments. You can't tell a cross-eyed girl that she's more beautiful than LaMarr but you can tell her that you like her new dress, the way she wears her hair, or that you have fun, being with her.

Q. How do you introduce a new student to the teacher of your class?

A. Dave Jefferson is a new boy. But you know him because he used to go to the same school your cousin Brick attended. Brick says Dave is a crack tennis-player. You'd like Dave to feel at home *fast*, so that he'll go out for the Central High tennis team. Introducing him to the gang is easy. But the teachers — that's out of your territory.

Don't kid yourself. A good salesman covers the whole field and uses all his contacts. So don't side-step the teachers. Plan to arrive at class a few minutes early. Get there before Miss Tracy calls the class to order and before half a dozen classmates crowd around her desk trying to get the low-down on that tough geometry problem.

You say, "Miss Tracy, I'd like to introduce Dave Jefferson." And then to Dave, "Dave, this is Miss Tracy, our geometry teacher." Miss Tracy will carry on from there, and she'll appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Q. How do you introduce a speaker?

A. Maybe you've never had a yen to be on the stage. Maybe you're allergic to spotlights. But sooner or later, comes the time when you're asked to introduce a speaker!

It may be the guest of honor for your class banquet. It may be an assembly speaker. It may be a fellow who is going to give tips on jobs to your Career Club — or a friend of your father's who has agreed to talk to your young people's group at church. Whatever it is, you're in the public eye, and you're scared stiff.

Come on, tighten up those suspenders! If you're scared, how about the

guy who's going to speak? He's the only one with a real reason for quaking. The audience will forget all about you the minute he starts to speak. The only thing you have to do is to be friendly, and to put him at his ease.

You don't *have* to make a fancy speech yourself. You don't *have* to tell funny stories. The simpler your spiel — the better. It will sound more sincere that way.

You announce the speaker's name — audibly and clearly. (Make sure you know how to pronounce it before hand.) State the subject of his speech. And you might explain why he is particularly qualified to speak on this subject. Then, say to *him* that you and your friends are most happy to have him with you. Enough said!

Depending on the occasion, you can vary the formula. If it's Coach Johnson who's speaking at the Athletic Dinner, the kids will know who he is. But you could break the ice with an anecdote about the day the coach came to school wearing one blue sock and one brown plaid sock.



"Hiya?" When you say it, smile.

On some occasions, when you're being official emcee, you may be expected to thank the speaker in behalf of your group. Here again, simply and briefly, you might say, "Dr. Houston, thank you so much for coming out to Jasper High today. Your experiences, as an army surgeon, were of great interest to all of us. We hope you'll come again."

If you don't thank a guest speaker publicly, you should approach him after the audience exits, and thank him.



Don't Fence Me In sounds silly when you made the fence "going steady."

Chapter VI

GOING STEADY

Q. I don't like the idea of "going steady," but how else can a girl be sure of having dates?

A. To "go steady" or not to "go steady" . . . that is the question . . . whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the uncertainties about next Friday's date . . . or to take battle 'gainst these monopolists who want you for their own. Yes, that's the priority question. Do you battle or do you suffer?

Okay, so you're sure of dates by "going steady." But, if you feel you wouldn't rate the phone calls and milkshakes without shackling someone to your side, isn't there a weak cylinder in your motor? Aren't you minus something that's going to stall you sooner or later?

Better tactics would be to check up on the chatter, the dancing, the grooming—whatever it is that makes you afraid to buck open competition. Then you'll always be a good date in any man's language. You won't say feebly, "I don't like to go steady, but . . ."

Q. Is it all right for a boy who's "going steady" to flirt with other girls?

A. You gave yourself away on that one! If you have ideas about what fun

it would be to kid with Lucy, or take Jane out for a coke, or invite Carol to dance, you *aren't* completely converted to the "going steady" school.

Maybe you "go steady" because the gang does, but your fancy is still free and footloose. Which means that you'll be in hot water any day. Or that "going steady," for you, will become a tag tacked onto your relationship with the heart throb of the moment. But why hang a tag where it doesn't belong? If you have to sport a label, why not "Fancyfree" or "Still Looking"?

If you're not cut out along "old faithful" lines, there's no use kidding yourself. And it's a downright shame to kid the girl who thinks you're her steady. As to your datability, most girls won't turn a cold shoulder on the invites because you haven't promised to love them forever after. In fact, "no strings attached" usually makes you more interesting. Girls see you still as a possible conquest.

Q. I like Russ better than the other boys I know. I admit that neither of us has thought of a lifetime proposition. But what's wrong with "going steady" for the time being?

A. Nothing's wrong with it, but a little silly, isn't it? To say "going steady" and "for the time being" in the same sentence?

If three boys ask you for dates and you like Russ best, there's no reason why you shouldn't date Russ most often. But, you can do this without tagging yourself "Private Property."

The fact that you date Russ often proves that you prefer his company. Yet, you aren't hogtied so that there are scenes and misunderstandings on that future Saturday night when you *want* to accept another date. Or when Jane wants you to go out with her cousin. Or when the gang from a neighboring high school invites you to a picnic. No binding promises made . . . no promises to break. Meantime, devote yourself as exclusively to Russ as you choose. You see, you can almost eat your cake and have it!

In most small high schools, when

\$64 Questions

you've been dating one boy quite regularly, your friends know which sleeve your heart is on. The other boys don't howl too loudly when they know Russ already has his foot in the door. So why go to the trouble of fencing yourself in unnecessarily? Remember, comes the day when neighboring pastures *do* look greener, it's easier to stroll eastwards or westwards, if you don't have to knock down that fence.

Q. When a boy and girl are "going steady," should the girl put her arm around the boy's neck when he's driving? Or let him drive with one hand?

A. You're "going steady." No one's arguments nor your own logic can convince you of another course of action. So, then—how to behave as someone's steady? That isn't tough to answer if you think a minute. Good taste is *always* good taste. Manners and good sense don't vary for steadies and casual friends.

One-handed driving is neither practical nor safe, even if the lady alongside a fellow is his grandmother! A boy's mind can be distracted far from highway matters if his other arm is cuddling you. And it doesn't help his concentration, if *you* supply the cuddling.

Nor is it merely a question of one-handed driving. What you're really say-



No sale — and can you blame her?

ing is "How many privileges can you assume just because you say you're going steady?" Does that make it all right for you and Tracy to stroll the school corridors, arms entwined around each other's waists? Does it mean Peg and Hal are entitled to amble off to a corner for a little interchange of affection at Margo's party? Or that all your sentences have to begin, "Joe and I . . .?"

You know the answers. It's *never* good strategy to flaunt your affections on the school premises for benefit of faculty and strangers. A party is *never* a place for intimate twosomes. Besides, what makes you think the other kids want to witness your private lives and loves? As for the "Joe and I" kind of talk, no interesting person can afford to sound as if there were only two people in the world. It's both vain and rude.

"Go steady," if you choose. But don't make it an excuse for sidestepping your best behavior. If he's the right sort of steady, your best isn't too good for him.

Q. How can you refuse "going steady" without hurting a boy's feelings?

A. Tell the truth — that you aren't ready to settle down to one person and that you think you will make a much better "steady" someday, *after* you have dated different types of boys and found out what you really and forever-after like. Most boys would rather be told the truth, than be two-timed! They appreciate honesty and sincerity. If they don't, be glad you found it out in time!

Q. I'm sunk. For almost a year I've been "going steady" and everything was fine until suddenly my "steady" started dating others. What can I do?

A. You can mope around and be miserable, remembering "all those little things" that made your heart sing and counting the broken pieces; you can choke down your pride, ask "What happened?" and perhaps, if it was your fault, patch things up; or you can chalk the whole thing up to experience, take a new lease on life, and get going!

Don't kid yourself for a moment that you're the only one whose stack of blocks has taken a tumble. It happens here, there, and everywhere. What matters is how you take it — chin up or chin down in your hands. And now is the time for you to make up your mind which!

You'll have to work hard at the "chin-up" way; "chin down" will come easy. Every popular song, every stop-in at the Corner Drug, every green sweater or every telephone ring can remind you of yesterdays, if you let them. If you

refuse to let them, you'll have to find new interests to take their place. Call up some of your friends you've neglected because of "steady" dates; let the word get around that you're "back in circulation" again; get that after-school job you really wanted but wouldn't take, for fear it would interfere; settle down to some serious study and planning for the future — a career; go out for your class team sports; join the radio, dramatics, or glee club. What if you can't carry a tune in a tun? You may learn — and you'll surely see some new and interesting faces!

Q. How can you tell when you're really in love?

A. If you mean the forever-and-ever easy-come, easy-go "dating popularity," perhaps so. But don't forget the easy-go



Possessiveness leads to feuding.

kind, you can't. Lasting love is not static; it is a growing process in which two people are continuously willing to adjust personal differences for the sake of the partnership. It thrives on understanding and response, on self-sacrifice and mutual responsibility. It won't hit you like a ton of bricks. The realization will come slowly through association and the discovery of mutual likes and dislikes.

There is no sure-fire answer to your question, but the surest way of knowing that you're on the right track is to test yourself with this question: Is everything you do to make "a certain person" happy a real pleasure to you — even if it means self-sacrifice?

If it is, you're off to a good start!

Q. Why are girls who neck the popular ones?

A. *Are they?* If you're talking about

part of it. You won't have to look very far to find a girl who started with a bang and ended with a dull thud.

First, the word got around (it always does) that she was a "rocket bomb." So the boys — some of them — were curious and they decided to sample. A few of them went back for more — but not for long. Who wants second-hand goods?

But reputations are something you can't rub off easily. They stick — and you're stuck with them. Make them good — and honest, not cheap and tricky.

Be sure that, when a boy asks you for a date — and a second one — he's asking you because he likes you, as a person, not as a pair of Cupid's bow lips. Be honest — be interesting — and you'll be popular.

Q. If you're a guest at a party where necking seems to be the main form of entertainment, how can you avoid it?

A. Think fast and talk faster! Of course, it's a poor host or hostess who allows a party to deteriorate into a necking session, but this is one time when you're under no obligation to "follow the leader." And don't kid yourself by thinking that being a good sport means doing everything "the crowd" does. The reason that situations like this arise is that no one has the forethought and courage to become a leader — in the opposite direction!

If you have the courage of your convictions (that affection should be honest and *not* for public display), then follow through. Politely decline to participate and change the subject — of conversation and activity. Start an argument; change the records from "sweet" to "swing," suggest a game. Throwing cards into a hat from a distance of 10 feet may not sound exciting, but it's a more interesting pastime than something you disapprove, as well as dislike. You may not be able to "sell" your suggestions to the whole gang but, the chances are, there'll be several people who'll be "sold" on you for having the courage of your convictions.

Q. Is sixteen "too young" to think of marriage?

A. Not if you mean thinking of the sort of person you would like to marry eventually. Sixteen should be a good time to *start* making up your mind what qualities and traits of character you admire most in others. No doubt you'll change your mind several times — perhaps many times — before your set of standards really jells into something solid that *you* can depend on. Right

now you may be attracted by good looks, a uniform, or a good dancer. But would you like to settle down with any of them for the rest of your life? The sort of person you'd like to marry *some day* is something you will have to decide for yourself. It's never too soon to start thinking about what that person should be; it's too late to start thinking after you've said, "I do."

Sixteen is "too young" to start thinking about getting-married-quick. Because, if you're in that sort of a mood, you're probably thinking only of wedding bells, a wedding ring, candlelight, and "I Love You Truly." You're concentrating on the glamour and forgetting that marriage means daily responsibilities. It means two meal tickets instead of one, clothes and entertainment for two instead of one, the responsibilities of a home and a family. It means much more in love and companionship, but you can't look at the front curtain and think you're seeing the whole stage.

PETTING

Q. Will you please discuss the subject of petting? Everybody says, "Don't do it!" But I want to know the why.

A. Some people call it necking; some, petting. But, whatever they call it, most people tell you *not to do it*.

Okay. You're willing to listen to advice from people you respect and trust but, when you're advised against something, you want to know the *why-nots*. You have a right to know them. Yet most non-petting advice leaves you wondering. It's a shake of the head, a flat "No!" or an evasive remark such as, "Nice people don't do it."

Well, if nice people don't do it, *why* don't they? If the subject is hush-hush, why do you hear radio comedians make cracks about it? Why do most movies contain at least one good "clinch"?

Okay. Let's skip over all the funny business and be serious. Let's not talk in circles. Let's talk straight.

Petting isn't a subject you should shy away from. Nor is it some form of abnormal behavior. Affection, both giving and receiving, is a normal human need. And physical contact—holding hands, locking arms, kissing—is one way of expressing affection.

A mother pets her baby. A child pets his dog. An eight-year-old has a

"crush" on her playmate and they walk down the street with locked arms. These are natural, normal expressions of affection.

It is also natural and normal that, some time during adolescence, you become more interested than before in members of the opposite sex. You like to go to boy-girl parties; you want to have dates; you get a kick out of being with members of the opposite sex. Your basic self hasn't changed but, because of your newly-awakened interest, your affectional energy may turn somewhat in the direction of the opposite sex.

That's okay. But remember that physical contact is only *one* form of expressing affection and to overplay that one form to the exclusion of other vital forms (companionship and the sharing of mutual interests, thoughts, and activities) is a big mistake. It gives you a false sense of values, it stunts your growth as an individual; it limits your personal attractiveness and it may distort your ideas of love and marriage.

There are many arguments against petting. There is only one argument for it—a flimsy and selfish argument: "I like it. I get a thrill out of being emotionally excited."

Emotions are funny things. In adolescence particularly they are easy to arouse and hard to control. If you get into the habit of letting your emotions go haywire, you will lose your self-control in other ways, too.

There is a lot of teamwork in every individual. Ideas, emotions and activity must be coordinated in a smooth-running individual, a likeable and popular person. Uncontrolled emotions are like a halfback running wild on the football field without the support and the cooperation of his team. He can't win the game without them.

Sure, you've heard people say that girls have to pet in order to be popular. You've seen some boys flock towards a girl who is considered a fast number. But if you'll take a second look, you'll find that pretty soon the boys are fleeing instead of flocking.

Love and marriage are something that every girl and every boy look forward to, plan for and hope for in the future. But no lasting romance, no happy marriage was ever based on physical attraction alone. Mutual interests, mutual respect, and mutual ability to adjust personal desires to a work-and-play partnership are the bases for happiness in love and marriage. Don't endanger your chances for future happiness by playing loose with your emotions now.

A RING ON YOUR FINGER

Q. Is it all right for a boy and girl to exchange jewelry (class rings, pins, etc.)?

A. To shout a loud, forbidding "No!" here would be a refusal to admit that there's such a thing as sentiment. And there *is* sentiment in every human heart. Some people allow themselves to become sugary sentimental; others revolt against such sugary sentiment-



"Moonlight mood" starts to take.

tality and become cynical. But honest sentiment is a good thing.

Just as there is honest sentiment attached to a keepsake that once belonged to your grandmother, so wearing a ring or pin of someone you like can have real meaning. It can mean much more than just advertising the fact that there is a "special bond" between you and Jack. But be sure that there is a sincere (and consequently, *lasting*) bond between you before you advertise! Deep-felt ties are a rare and precious thing. Expressions of such ties should also be rare.

Wearing Jack's class ring one month and Drake's silver basketball the next merely advertises the fact that you're a collector of affections. If your "affection of the moment" isn't "for keeps" (and it seldom is—in high school) why make it a meaningless game? You can be fond of Jack without decking yourself in medals of conquest. You can also avoid that embarrassing moment of returning the trophy—when the beautiful friendship has come to a bitter end.

IT'S A GIFT

Q. When you break up with a girl and want to get your pin back, what can you do?

A. Two things: (1) Ask her to return your pin. It no longer has any meaning for her and it rightfully belongs to you. (2) Watch your step the next time and don't be so eager to pin 'em down.

Q. Is it all right for girls to give gifts to boys?

A. A girl is never obligated to give a boy a gift and, unless you're "going steady" or he's a friend of long standing, better stick to cards at Christmas and for birthdays. They're always appreciated, and it's your gesture of thoughtfulness, not the gift, that counts.

Girls should never be the first givers nor should they give expensive gifts. If you're giving a present to your "steady," be careful that it doesn't cost more than his gift to you. Play safe with an inexpensive purchase and be sure that you aren't adding "one more" to his collection of wallets. Whatever you give, he'll have to use — so make it truly useful!

Q. What sort of gifts should a boy give his girl friend for Christmas? A girl give her boy friend?

A. Anyone can give gifts. The art comes in fitting the gift to the person. And this takes more headwork than pocketbook. Tina, who always wears a flower in her hair, would rather have a sprig of holly or mistletoe on a clip than an expensive knick-knack. Danny, who likes folk singers, would rather have one Burl Ives or Josh White record than an album of Sinatra.

Any gift that you make yourself will have double the meaning of one you buy. It takes five minutes to buy a pair of mittens. But if you put in some time knitting a pair for Mike, he'll know you think he's "special."

Here are a few suggestions of gifts, all of which indicate that you must know your subject!

THE GIRL IN YOUR LIFE:

If she's strictly feminine — perfume (in light, flower odors), a compact, an evening bag, inexpensive costume jew-



Fitting the gift to the person????

elry, a jewelry box, a manicure kit, or the gesture that might top them all — flowers on Christmas Day.

If she likes a practical touch — stationery with her monogram, a leather wallet, fountain pen, books, handkerchiefs, or some sheet music you know she wants.

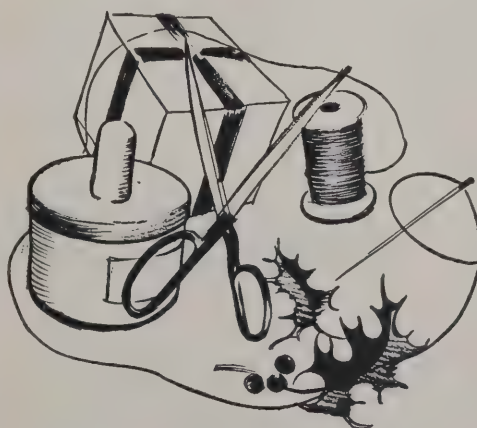
If she's a gay girl — a stud belt, a silk scarf as gay as she is, records or, if you want to be original, tickets to a special concert or theater program.

THE NUMBER ONE MAN:

If he's the outdoor type — golf tees or golf balls, a can of tennis balls, a ski wax kit, a hunting knife, a canvas gym bag, a box of shells for his rifle, an item for his fishing tackle, or a book on sailing or horses.

If he's a little on the serious side — cater to his interest in chemistry, books, art prints, or camera equipment and he may take you more seriously!

If he's "a jolly good fellow" — an album of records, a tool kit or an aerial for his car, a snappy-looking wallet or (no kidding!) a box of fudge or cookies that you made yourself.



Gifts you make yourself are tops.

THAT'S NO JOKE

Q. How do you discourage off-color jokes in a crowd?

A. By having something better to talk about — by having a sure-fire joke up your sleeve, the kind at which everyone will laugh and the kind to which no one will object.

When you're out with the gang and Corky starts telling a questionable story, there's no better way to encourage him than to giggle and exchange embarrassed glances with the rest of the kids. Off-color jokesters always know they're travelling out of bounds. Their thrill comes in seeing just how rash they can be and still get away with it. If they get no audience response they'll give up the act.

However, you won't prove your point by taking Corky by the ears and giving him an on-the-spot lecture. And neither will you help things if you retreat into cold and stony silence. The best reaction is *no* reaction. If you think Corky's story is in bad taste, you aren't required to pretend amusement. But you are required to show you can offer a satisfactory substitute in entertainment. You can hustle into action with a good story of your own brand the minute Corky finishes. It won't be hard to find the joke that outdoes Corky.

The funny thing about off-color jokes is that they're rarely funny. Ever notice that? The punch lines are often downright dull or stupid. Most of the suspense comes from wondering how far out of the accepted range of conversation the teller dares go.

Most boys won't try to tell a shady story to a girl who *definitely* won't appreciate it. But if your own talk is cheap and indiscreet, you're giving him the signal to go ahead with the raciest and smuttiest dialogue he can dig up.

Of course, the old ounce of prevention is still the best strategy. If you keep the conversational ball rolling in high gear on safe roads, Corky and his friends won't drive the talk down back alleys for entertainment.

At parties, you should have an active program planned for the evening. The gang will only sit and twiddle their thumbs so long, before someone will try to stir up a little excitement — often with unexpurgated stories.



Shall we make the boys think they're bigger, better, and brighter than we?

A WOMAN'S PLACE?

Q. Should a girl try to make a boy think he's bigger, better — and brighter than she? By that I mean, should she purposely let him win tennis games and arguments?

A. When you ask if a girl should *purposely* allow a boy to win every competition of brawn or brains, you're admitting that in some things you're either equal to or superior to a particular boy. So you're really asking: Should a girl hide her abilities and cultivate frailty in order to flatter a boy's vanity?

The answer is *no*, if you want to win his admiration and friendship and enjoy his companionship on a "fair and square" basis. Do you want him to like and respect you for what you are? Or do you want to be his satellite?

Most high school boys rate *sincerity* ("honesty in everything she says and does," to put it in their own words) as the top quality in their Ideal Girl. Most boys want more than an audience when they date a girl; they like a challenge. And, if a boy is sincerely interested in a girl, he'll want her to be her best at all times. He'll be as proud of her achievements as she is of his.

Try to balance your good times together, so that you both excel in some things. Maybe your backhand does give you a tennis edge on Jake. Okay, make the most of it. But he probably tops you in swimming, skating, or bowling. Suggest activities in which you can sincerely respect his prowess.

Maybe you get more right answers in English class than Sam does. Toss them off, but don't call attention to it. You know Sam's strong points are math and mechanics. Consult him about your geometry assignment or the bad brake on your bike; that shows him you respect his abilities.

Make much of the abilities of others — then Sam won't hold it against you because you have a way with pronouns and Jake will make a joke of the tennis game he loses. A healthy friendship is a give-and-take affair. Life gets pretty dull when one person does all the taking.

WHY STUDY?

Q. My "steady" will be out of school soon and we've planned to get married as soon as he gets a job. What's the use in my going on to school? All I do is think about Don! Besides, what good

will school studies and math be to a housewife?

A. While you're thinking about Don, you ought to think about the sort of girl he wants to marry, the sort of wife he expects you to be. If all Don wants is a cook and laundress, he could save himself a great deal of money and responsibility by hiring them!

No doubt, the "comforts of home" are in every boy's scheme of things. But they aren't the whole story of marriage. In proposing marriage, Don has asked you to *share life* with him. He wants a companion as well as a cook — and a budget-balancer as well as a laundress.

If you think that a knowledge of world affairs, through social studies, will be of no use to you, then you're near-sighted. With the recent advances in transportation and the complexities of world affairs, it is no longer possible for any person or any group of people to live on an island — even in their thoughts. In order to be good citizens it is necessary for both you and Don to keep up with the world. You must also be able to keep up with Don, who will have had more education than you, if you quit school.

Will you be able to keep in step with Don, as a conversationalist? Will your opinions and statements stack up with his? Will you be able to listen intelligently? There's a lot of listening done in the average home.

If Don is making a fresh start in a job, both you and he will find daily use for mathematics. You'll probably have to torture every penny to get the most out of it. A big part of any home-maker's job is "the budget," and living on a budget requires more than a slapdash smattering of mathematics.

Suppose, for some reason, your plans change and you don't get married. Suppose Don doesn't get a job immediately and *he decides* it would be better to wait until he's "set" before you marry. Won't you be better prepared to become a wife — perhaps even to help him earn a living — if you take advantage of schooling rather than sitting, wishing and waiting?

Q. I've had a part-time job in an industrial plant and I have a chance for a full-time job in the same plant. I like machinery and intend to work in industry all my life. Why should I keep on going to school, studying English and a lot of subjects I'll never use? My family could use the extra money I'd make, particularly since my older brother has been "laid off" from his job.

A. If you already know what sort of work you want to do the rest of your life, you're a step ahead of many of your friends. But what about your ambition? Isn't it the same as that of other American boys — to get ahead, but fast! It doesn't matter what the career. The average American boy wants to get to the top. He wants to be the owner of his own garage, the editor of the newspaper, the president of a business concern.

Would you be satisfied to stop with the job you're considering? Don't you want to move up the line to foreman, superintendent, president?

The difference between the job of repairman and foreman may be only the ability to give directions in good, clear English. The difference between a foreman and superintendent may be the knack of dealing with people in conversation, writing reports or figuring costs. If you're hitching your wagon to the president's chair, you'll spend most of your time dealing in words, spoken or written.

Be sure you know where you're headed and how far you want to go before you sign off from school.

And about that brother of yours. Perhaps he couldn't do your job. But, in looking for a job, he may run into competition from other high school kids. Don't you think it would be better for the older brothers to have first chance at jobs? It's too late for many of them to go back to school. They may have family responsibilities which make it necessary for them to earn a living.

It adds up to your advantage to let them have the jobs open now, while



Better math before than aftermath.

you prepare for a better job. Why not get set to be a big guy in industry rather than one of the mob scene?

SMOKING—DRINKING

Q. What do you think of high school kids smoking? — of drinking?

A. Here's what high school students think of teen-agers smoking and drinking: When we've asked that question in *Scholastic's* Jam Session, the answers have come back with a good solid majority on the "thumbs down" side.

Here's the story: First of all, we aren't going to tell you that one cigarette or one highball spells sudden death. Or even that such indulgences mark you as a "bad woman" or a "fast man." There are too many customs in too many countries for us to dish up a blanket rule for you. You've seen adults you respect smoking. Maybe your own family serves wine on festive occasions.

But even if smoking and drinking are neither *wrong* nor *deadly*, they aren't intelligent pastimes at your age.

Smoking and drinking aren't intelligent because:

1. Neither is good for your health.
2. Neither is good for your looks.
3. Neither adds anything to your prestige or sophistication.

Let's look more closely at those three reasons. First, the health score. Your hygiene books tell what excess use of nicotine and tobacco will do.

But when you ask, "What's wrong

with smoking?" you probably aren't thinking of excesses. You mean just an occasional cigarette or a few a day. We'll admit that tobacco in small amounts may not noticeably impair your health. But does it do it any good?

If you look at the tobacco-using adults you know, you'll find more who smoke a *lot* than a *little*. (And much smoke is much money and much money for little gain. A lifetime worth of smokes would buy you a college education.)

Both tobacco and alcohol are habit-forming. And alcohol is a drug. A drug is more powerful than your system. You're skating on thin ice as soon as you expose your system to a more powerful force.

Now, for your looks. Some of you may be devil-may-care about the future state of your health. But every high school boy or girl will think twice when a becoming appearance is at stake. And we have yet to find the person who thinks a cigarette in mouth or a cocktail in hand contributes to the attractiveness of teen-agers. When you're twenty-one, it will be time enough for you to decide for yourself whether smoking and drinking will be enough of a pleasure to you to risk the other hazards involved. But now, public opinion says *no*. Remember how ridiculous you looked when you were five and used to dress up in your mother's high heels? Well, you and alcohol look just as incongruous and a whole lot more distasteful to most people.

And don't forget with cigarettes there are the accompanying nicotine stains you'll sport on your teeth and between the fingers. Hardly beautiful!

Then there's the third reason. There was a period in history when it was considered "smart" and "sophisticated" to smoke or drink. The "flapper" cut quite a figure by bolting from accepted patterns of behavior for girls. But nowadays, when so many people smoke and almost as many drink, the original answer is "no thanks." The fellow who stands out in a crowd is always the one who knows how to resist social pressure.

How about you? Can you figure out any other answers? Can you give three good reasons for drinking or smoking? We said *reasons*, not excuses.

If you can't you'd better follow the conclusions of our Jam Session readers. Respect the judgment and standards of your parents, your community, and your friends. They want the best for you. You want to be at your best.



Books may be the tool you'll need.

TIPS FOR GIRLS

IN THE RIGHT GROOVE

Sure, you want to stand out in the school crowd — but you won't make much progress if you tackle the problem by wearing the most outlandish and out-of-place outfits you can hang on yourself. Those tactics will just make you stand out like a sore thumb, not like the shining light you want to be. So turn "thumbs down" on the thought of decking yourself in your best date dress, high heels and gobs of costume jewelry . . . and definitely turn "nose up" at the idea of teaming your brother's oldest shirts with your down-on-the-farm dungarees. Get-ups like that may seem intriguing when you plan them on Sunday night, but you'll feel mighty uncomfortable in them when you're parading around the halls on Monday.

GRADE A IN GROOMING



If you want to pass your good-grooming tests with flying colors, here's a check-list you can use to check up on yourself: (1) Every garment you wear fits you to perfection — no squeezing into too-tight dresses or using belts to

hold up too-loose skirts. (2) The necklines of your blouses and dickeys are immaculately clean. (3) Your skirts are complete with pleats in the right places, and not a crease in a carload. (4) Your hems hit just below your knee, and they're even all around (with no safety pins coming to the aid of *this* party!). (5) Your saddle-shoes get a whitewash job at least once a week — your suede flats are brushed daily to keep them dust-proof — your moccasins are well-heeled and shined. (6) Your socks hug your ankles neatly and/or the seams of your hose head straight down the backs of your legs. (7) You buy your sweaters to fit you — and, when you wash them, you stretch them back into the proper proportions. (8) You never have to plead guilty to the accusation of coming to school with hair done up in bobby-pins or draped in a turban. (A good way to cope with your crowning glory, when you can't do a *thing* with it, is to tie a ribbon around it, little-girl style.) In short, you add up to a neat, shining prettiness which proves that you care *how you look*, whether you're set to fly off to a cram-session or a jam-session.

How's your

MAKING WITH THE MAKE-UP



The secret of any smart gal's facial success is that she keeps it a secret — i.e.: she puts on her make-up in private. Fix your face with a light dusting of powder and a deft touch of lipstick before you leave home each morning — after that, it's on its own.

No powder-puffing during classes, no lipstick-dabbing in the halls, no mirror-peering in the cafeteria. The same goes double for your hair-care, which is an especially private affair. You'll be a pretty unpopular character if you're constantly dragging a comb through your tresses, or mumbling through a mouthful of bobbies, which you frantically jab into your head. So find a simple hair-do that wears well, and anchor it soundly before you set off for school. If you're afraid your morning beauty routine won't carry you through the entire day, repair to the "ladies room" for a repair job. And while you're there, mind your manners. Wait your turn at the mirror — no pushing or craning over people's shoulders. Do your make-over work on the double so the next girl in line will be able to make *her* class on time. And remember that no one likes to take over a basin that's suspiciously gray around the edges, or a shelf that's decorated with belipsticked tissues. Take time to *clean up* before you *clear out*!

SOFT AND MELLOW



You may always look like an angel, but what good are looks, if you sound like a howling demon? If you want to speak to Betty Jane between classes (and she's not within speaking distance), catch up with her or store your remarks away until you can deliver

them in a civilized manner. When you're in the cafeteria, concentrate on the people at your own table, instead of allowing your chit-chat to echo round the entire lunchroom. And try appreciating those locker-room jokes with a grin and a chuckle, instead of greeting them with a series of piercing giggles.

TIPS FOR BOYS

school life?

RUGGED — BUT NOT ROUGH



Did it ever occur to you that a guy can look smooth without looking like a sissy? Casual school clothes needn't be sloppy clothes — and you can start proving it by showing up for classes in an outfit that looks as if it had been pressed last night, not slept in. A good beginning would be to get —

and keep — a sharp crease in your pants; and you could follow through by topping them with a spic-and-span shirt, instead of a spot-and-blot one. All well and good if you want to go backwoodsdy with corduroy shirts or plaid wools, but try tucking them into your pants for a change, instead of letting them flap in the breeze. Take a sweater-care cue from your sister so that yours are clean and well-fitting — and neatly darned if you make a point of coming-through-at-the-elbows. Get acquainted with the shoe-polishing implements in Dad's closet — and get into the habit of dropping your foot-gear off at the shoemaker now and then for a heels-and-tips job. And never let it be said that you dress as if you were color-blind! Go all-out for screaming orange-and-green argyle socks if you like, but don't team them up with your red and blue plaid shirt. You want people to know you're around, but you don't want them to hear you coming!

CLEAN-CUT and CLEAN



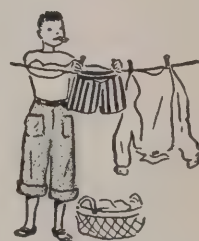
If your exam papers look like finger-print records when you turn them in, the trouble can probably be traced to a natural talent for picking up dust in shop class. So take a break occasionally and head for the "men's room" for a once-over-lightly on your hands

and face. (N.B.: Dirt has a nasty habit of lurking under your fingernails, too.) Also — be a gentleman and confine your hair-combing activities to the lavatory. Incidentally, all the water and slickum in the world will be as nothing unless you have clean and neatly-trimmed hair to work on. And need we add that your daily dozen in the morning should embrace your ears and the very-back of your neck?

IT'S YOUR SCHOOL

School spirit can be translated into more items than just exercising your lungs at football games. For one thing, it means behaving in a way that will give the lie to the drippy wise-crack that runs, "Where d'ya think y'are — in school or some other dirty place?" Candy bar wrappers belong in trash baskets, not on classroom floors. And when you feel like giving vent to your artistic temperament, apply pencil to paper, instead of scribbling on corridor walls or, worse yet, whittling at your desk with a pen-knife.

HOME EC HOMEWORK



Time was when men left the homely details of washing and ironing to their womenfolk. But all that has changed since ex-GIs started coming home chockful of their own ideas about how clothes should be cared

for. So it's right in order for you to pick up some basic training on the subject. You'll have enough undershirts, shorts and socks to allow for the necessary fresh change every day if you dump your things into soapsuds — instead of in a dark corner — each night. And you won't have to borrow Dad's shirts if you know how to launder your own. If the collars and cuffs are especially grubby, first scrub them with a brush dipped in warm soapsuds. Then pop the shirt into the basin of suds and squeeze the soapy water through it, rubbing only on stubborn spots and stains. Ask Mom to show you how to squeeze a light starch into the collar, cuffs and buttonhole edge. The trick of a smooth ironing job is to dampen the shirt evenly, keep the iron moderately hot, and press each part separately until it is completely dry. And remember that all the starched parts should be pressed on the wrong side first, then done right-side-up. Tackle the cuffs first, next the sleeves, after that the collar (which is first pressed flat, then folded over and pressed down). When you've done the yoke under the collar, finish off the back. And press the starched parts down the front of the shirt before you finish ironing the rest of the front. Tough work? If GIs fighting a war could do it, you can, too.

TIPS FOR GIRLS

RISE AND SHINE!

Do you come down to breakfast with your hair still in bobby pins, face still asleep — and a grumpy disposition showing? It's not the way to endear yourself to the home folks! The old cold-water treatment for face and neck is guaranteed to bring you out of the sleepy-time class. Next, down the hatch with two glasses of water. Dressing can be practically painless, if you've decided, the night before, what you're going to wear — and then laid everything out. Saves time, too. Before you show up for your Wheaties, don't forget to extract the bobby pins and curlers — and do act alive! You don't have to yakkity-yakkity-yak, but a pleasant "Good Morning" starts you and the family off in a friendly, rather than a feuding, mood.



IS THAT YOU ALL OVER?

Putting on a face is a very personal and private affair — or it *should* be. The nose-powdering stuff should be done in your own room — not in the living room, not in front of the big hall mirror, nor in the bathroom. You

know how unpopular monopolizing that department can make you! And the blobs of powder and stray hairs that cling so tenaciously to the basin aren't going to help matters, either. (Shampoo-ers, please note: track down that last bit of hair and leave the basin spotless.) If you have one place for the make-up business, it eliminates the inconvenience of having thirteen things scattered over the house, where you can't find them when you want them. A bathroom maker-upper is always in a spot. Her date is waiting, and someone else in the family is doing a two hour soaking session in the tub!

If you're protesting that the *light* is so much better in the bathroom, why not get a stronger bulb for your own lamp? Keep cosmetics in a make-up box, or use the section system in your top drawer. Thumb-tack into place the lower halves of different-size cardboard boxes, and line them with glazed wrapping or shelving paper in a pretty pattern. Divvy up your belongings and keep 'em in place. Saves time and trouble!

How's your



BIG DRIP DEPT.

Are you a member of the Nightly Laundry League? Members say their clothes last longer and look better! The only drawback is that some "eager beavers" leave the bathroom so draped and dripping that you have to fight your way into the tub through a maze of wet wash! If there's only one bathroom and it's small, don't monopolize the space with your socks and undermentationables. Save larger items for Saturday sessions and, when you do

whisk out a few things at night, roll them in a towel for partial drying before you hang them up. Talk to Mom about a clothesline or drying rack in the "extra room" or kitchen. Or, after your wash is partially dry, hang it in your own room with papers on the floor, in case of last-minute drippings.

Sweaters should be washed separately, of course. And they need special treatment because colors run so easily and because of the old shrinkage problem. Never soak sweaters; don't even dawdle over the job. Wash quickly in lukewarm suds of mild soap — and lay-off rubbing with a bar-soap. Squeeze the sweater with your fingers, working the suds through the folds. Rinse thoroughly (twice, at least) in water of the same temperature, and squeeze (never twist or wring) out the water. Use a sweater form if you have one; otherwise, take the measurements before you wash the sweater, and shape it to size, while damp.



CLOSET CONSCIOUS?

Every smart gal knows her appearance depends on the upkeep of her clothes. But how many realize the importance of keeping clothes closets in good condition? If a closet is jam-packed full of clothes, your dresses won't look band-box when you put

them on! The trick is to make a change with the seasons. Don't have summer stuff cluttering up the closet in the winter-time, and vice-versa. Cottons are best stored laundered but unironed; woolens in mothproof bags or boxes. Be sure winter woolens are clean before they're moth-balled.

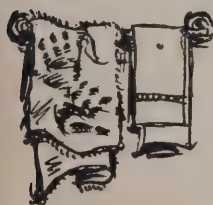
home life?



TRAIL BLAZING—HOME STYLE

Could you be "tracked down" by the long, winding trail you leave? Geometry book on the kitchen table, baseball on top of the icebox, apple core on the radio, sweater on the sofa, notebook on the steps? This type of trail blazing is hard on your mother's disposition — and hard on your clothes. Hang things up as soon as you shed them, and they won't lose their shape. Ties go on a rack, and remember, you roll up the knitted num-

bers. Candidates for the laundry are chucked into the bag as soon as they're eligible — not tossed under the bed! Hang suit jackets on wooden (not wire) hangers, but first empty the pockets — to prevent sagging. Trousers are hung by the cuffs on a clip hanger. When they are ready for the pressing business, you do the job! Better have your mother or older sister supervise the first attempt, but you take it from there. First, brush well and remove any spots with a good cleaner. While the iron is heating (3-4 minutes — no more) dampen a cloth to use in your pressing. It will have to be re-dampened a few times during the pressing process. Place folded trousers on the board — cuffs toward the narrow end. The cloth goes between the trousers and the iron to prevent shine or injury to the wool. Don't bear down like a ten-ton truck when you come to the creases and don't let the iron get too hot — you'll burn your britches behind you!



MAKING YOUR MARK

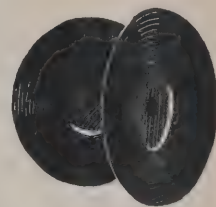
That Old Black Magic should be left strictly in the song department — and not on the bathroom towels. Making your Mark is all very well, but not with a ring around the tub nor with splashes of water all over the place.

The general idea is to obliterate the fact that you've been inhabiting the bathroom at all! (Use the can of cleaner by the tub, that is!) You won't be wiping half the sand lot on Mother's best towels if you concentrate on getting off all the dirt in the soap-and-water process.

CLOSE SHAVE

A fellow's best friend is his Dad or older brother, when it comes to the *whens* and *hows* of shaving. And almost every man has his favorite method — period. Some like electric razors, but most close shavers stick to the safeties or the old-fashioned straight razor. Some use brushless cream, others insist on shaving soap (or powder) and brush. The best advice is to stop, look, and listen to your Dad — and try his method first! For a close shave, a scientifically-tested method recommended by the Mellon Institute is a dash of cold water on the face (to stiffen the hair), shaving soap or cream, then with the safety razor blade heated by a quick dip in hot water, zip — you get a close clip! After-shave lotion is a matter of choice, but you don't have "to smell like a rose" — new flavors are pine and outdoorsy.

COLLECTION OBJECTION



If the family frowns on your latest collecting venture—stamps, records, butterflies, plane models, or whatever it may be — it probably isn't because they don't appreciate your prize possessions, but because they're always falling over some of your paraphernalia — glass jars, albums or tools. Mom probably doesn't welcome a crayfish alongside jelly on the pantry shelf! If you keep everything in your own room or the basement "shop" you'll find a warmer family reception to your collection. . . . Just for the records: if your favorite indoor sport is record hoarding, you've probably learned the hard way what happens if you leave them unprotected. Don't pile them carelessly on top of your desk or dresser where an accidental elbow can liquidate a collection of favorite "Bixes," Hermans or Goodmans. It's better to knock together a rack and keep them upright. Leave them in their original wrappers, or keep squares of cardboard in between each one; it's "scratch insurance" to your wax-works. Keep your collection well away from artificial heat and out of the direct sunlight. If a record is only slightly warped, you can straighten out the situation by placing it on a flat surface, weighted down with other records, and leaving it there for a couple of days.

TIPS FOR GIRLS

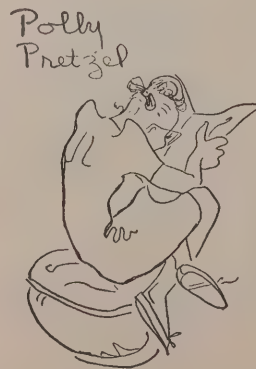
POSTURE PREMIUMS

You really make the most of your figure when you "stand up for it." All the tricks of good grooming — how to make with the make-up, shampoo your hair, and keep your nails gleaming — are an essential part of an attractive appearance. But a good posture is right up in there, too. Pull your chest out of your stomach and hold your shoulders back where they belong! Inches come off your middle; bumps and angles smooth into That Lissome Look. Your figure will do justice to a new dress or a good-looking bathing suit. Even every-day sweaters and skirts look better when they're not draped on a saggy chassis. And if that isn't enough, your complexion gets a bonus, too. Good posture means better circulation — short cut to clear skin.

THE HOW-TO DEPT.

Best way to get into a good groove is to back up to a convenient wall, with shoulders flat against it. Push towards it with the small of your back, which lines up all the little vertebrae. Your head is high, shoulders back, ribs feel high and wide apart, hips are tucked under, and knees are "easy." Don't you feel thin through the middle? Now walk away and hold that line!

Try a model's training trick for that "Cover Girl Carriage" — practice walking with a couple of books on your head. After you've mastered this act, try to balance a volume, while sitting and rising. (One foot goes behind the other, for balance.) When you're sitting in class or the movies, try not to fold up like an ironing board. Keep off the end of your spine. Slumping is more tiring than sitting up straight. **Cross your legs** (if you must) so that one knee is well over the other and your tootsies are parallel, unless you want your Grables to look like Cass Daley's! And when you're up on the assembly platform, be sure you're "sitting pretty." Cross your ankles, one foot behind the other, for a graceful appearance. And be sure your skirt is over your knees. Your posture performance is important.



How do

When walking, toe straight ahead, your knees almost brushing one another. If you walk with feet wide apart, you're sure to roll like a matronly tug boat! And while we're on the foot subject, what are you wearing in that department? If it's scow-bottomed moccasins, give them up for flats with some support in the instep, or you may end up in a pair of clomping corrective shoes — horrible thought. Constant wear of too high-heels is just as bad.

THE MENU IN YOUR LIFE

Good posture isn't everything where figures are concerned. You may be handling your skeleton right, but what goes over it may be too little and too late — or too much and too soon! Get acquainted with the Basic Seven food groups and be sure you have something from each of them every day. Roll out of bed in time to enjoy your breakfast. Be sure it includes cereal always and eggs often. There's a terrific tie-up between what you eat and how much vitality you have. And vitality adds up to "person-al-ity!"

If you're going through a plump period, don't work up a complex about it. Learn what foods are heavy on starches — pies, cakes, sundaes, rice, spaghetti and their ilk — and avoid them strenuously. Crispy salads, green vegetables, and fruits are for you. Eggs and lean meats will give you energy without adding a lot of fat.

If you're seriously overweight or underweight, either one, don't lose any time making an appointment with the doctor — for a physical check-up and a recommended diet. Good posture and a well-balanced diet are a combination that stacks up to classy chassis, lassies!

TIPS FOR BOYS

you stand?

STRAIGHTEN UP AND FLY RIGHT

How's your time in the 440? Are you strictly the "one-quarter type" on the basketball court? Do you sag on the 22nd push-up? Don't look now, but that angleworm stance of yours has a lot to do with your track time, your endurance, and your general vitality — or lack of it!

What does poor posture have to do with athletic ability? Plenty! Not only does it mess up balance and coordination, but it puts the "snafu" sign on your insides. Droopy shoulders and a sunken chest put pressure on the abdomen and interfere with normal expansion of the lungs — so that your body has trouble loading up on sufficient oxygen. It all adds up to less vitality and less resistance to colds. A sure way to stay on the bench!

WHAT'S THE ANGLE?

Good posture is a "must" in sports — it gives you that all-important base on which to build sports skills. (There's always a player whose posture won't win prizes, but he gets along in spite of his stance, not because of it!)

Basketball is a good example of a sport that requires a straight, easy, well-coordinated body. Look at Hot Shot the next time he's about to put one in the basket! His head is up, shoulders straight, weight evenly-balanced, knees relaxed. That "old back magic" has good football players under its spell, too. Ever see a lineman with a gelatin stance, or a forward passer with his chin on his chest? The same deal goes for baseball — in fielding, pitching, catching — and especially batting.

Now for maneuvers: you're in the Big Goon Dept. if you think a good posture consists of throwing out your chest. You can throw *that* whole idea right out the window! Start feet first. Plant 'em straight ahead, with weight evenly distributed. Your knees should be relaxed, not stiff; "locking" them throws the whole works out of line. Pull in your abdomen; lift up your ribs until you can feel the space between them. With your shoulders back, head up (chin in) you'll be all set. Once you've established these habits, go ahead and forget about them. Just bring yourself into line once in awhile by "pushing up the ceiling" with the top of your noggin.

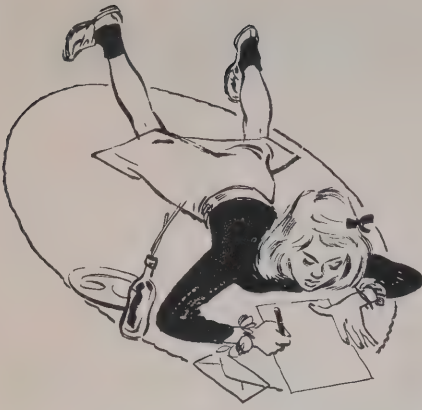
GET THE RIGHT GROCERIES

Unless you're the skeleton in somebody's closet, you need something to cover this good posture you've acquired — so give a think to the food department. Start the day right with a breakfast to stick to your ribs. Cereal, milk and fruit should always be on the list! Eat plenty of green vegetables and fresh fruits, besides the regular meat-and-potatoes fare. And don't forget the quart-a-day milk routine, especially if you're out to pick up a few pounds. Put an egg-a-day on your yes-list, too. You'll find quick energy in bread, sugar, ice-cream and chocolate.

Even if you don't spend *all* your time on the basketball court, or batting some kind of a ball around, you still need a good posture! If you've ever had to make an announcement in assembly, or even an oral report in class, you know how handy self confidence is. Not only does it give you a lift, but it inspires the stuff in your audience!

Look at the blue ribbon debaters or high-priority public speakers. Their stance is easy and relaxed, but their heads are on the up-and-up, and their backs as straight as a string. Any "slouch" before an audience inspires about as much confidence as a jelly fish. You'll never date-rate with the whistle-bait, either, if you have a Mortimer Snerd backbone. Don't be a dummy — get in there and *stand up* for your rights! No girl wants a collapsible date.





1. Nan spent the weekend visiting Arlene, who lives out-of-town. When she puts pen to paper to say "thank you," she:

- (a) Sends a bread-and-butter note to Arlene.
- (b) Writes one note to Arlene, and another to her mother.
- (c) Sends a note to Arlene's parents.

2. After a Paul Jones at a school dance, Hal finds himself stuck with Ellen, who dances like a pogo stick. Should he:

- (a) Make the best of it, and boost Ellen's morale by pretending he enjoys dancing with her?
- (b) Send out frantic distress signals to the stag line, behind Ellen's back?
- (c) Tell Ellen that he's tired, and would like to sit this one out?

3. On the spur of the moment, Tom invites Babs to have a soda with him. As they sit down, he realizes his finances are limited to one thin dime, so he:

- (a) Orders two small cokes without consulting Babs.
- (b) Admits his "state of emergency" to Babs, so both can order inexpensive drinks, or "go Dutch."
- (c) Hedges with, "I'm really not thirsty, Babs. But what kind of a soda do you want?"

4. When Annette introduces Jerry Comden and Bud Travis, should she say:

- (a) "Bud, meet Jerry."
- (b) "Bud, I'd like you to meet Jerry Comden. Jerry, this is Bud Travis."
- (c) "Don't you fellows know each other? Well, you ought to — Bud, this is Jerry."

5. En route to the study hall, Janie passes "the new boy." Never having been introduced to him, she:

- (a) Waits for him to speak up first.
- (b) Parades past him, nose in air.
- (c) Tosses him a friendly "Hello."



6. At a party, Kenny spies a girl whom he'd like to know. Should he:

- (a) Take up a stand near her and shower her with admiring glances?
- (b) Ask the host or hostess to introduce him to the girl?
- (c) Prance over to her and introduce himself?

7. Alex is seated on a crowded school bus, when two girls whom he knows enter together. Should he:

- (a) Stand up as soon as he sees the girls?
- (b) Offer his seat to one of the girls?
- (c) Remain seated, so he won't have to play favorites, but offer to hold the girls' books?

8. George turns his appointment with Ruth into a "late" date by calling for her at 8:30, after saying he would arrive at 8 o'clock. Ruth:

- (a) Puts George on the spot, the moment he walks in, by quarreling with him about his tardiness.
- (b) Waits for his apology, accepts it and drops the matter.
- (c) Accepts his apology, but makes cutting remarks all evening about George's lateness.

9. Sally and Norma are sipping cokes at the drug store, which is crowd-

Howie

ed to capacity. Two boys whom Sally knows stop at the girls' table. She:

- (a) Greets them with a "Hi, there" and resumes her conversation with Norma.
- (b) Introduces them to Norma, and asks if they would like to sit down.
- (c) Chats blithely with the boys while they wait for a table.

10. Ned meets June and Polly on the way to school. Does he:

- (a) Join the girls, walking between them?
- (b) Walk on the outside, next to the curb?
- (c) Make things interesting by shifting positions, first walking between the girls for a while, then near the curb?

11. Just when Roz thought she was all set on a "steady" arrangement with Johnny, he starts dating another girl. Should she:

- (a) Quietly brood over the fact that she has been deprived of her shackles?



- (b) Make a point of informing everyone that she doesn't care a bit?
- (c) Get back into circulation by planning an informal party for the gang?

12. Marion receives a graduation card from Jules, who was graduated from another school at the same time.

you doing?

But since she didn't send him a card, she:

(a) Apologetically gives him a dozen excuses for not having sent him one.

(b) Makes no mention of having received his card.

(c) Thanks him for sending her a card and congratulates him, in return, on his graduation.

13. While Paul is waiting to take Betty to the movies, her kid brother wanders into the living room. Should Paul:

(a) Bury himself in a magazine and ignore the younger boy?

(b) Give him a dime and tell him to "make himself scarce"?

(c) Strike up a conversation about something that will interest the youngster — even if it involves a demonstration of boxing tactics?

14. When Jay leaves the party, he goes to his host or hostess and says:

(a) "Thanks for a good time. I enjoyed the party very much."



(b) "The refreshments were terrific!"

(c) "'Bye now. See you in school."

15. Billy invites Peg to a friend's party. Should she say:

(a) "I'll have to ask my mother."



(b) "Yes, I'd love to go. I'll check with Mother and tell you tomorrow."

(c) "Well, I'm not sure if I can make it. I'll let you know."



16. When Dotty answers the phone and hears a male voice asking to speak to her, she:

(a) Excitedly shrieks, "Well, hello Bob. Where have you been hiding?"

(b) Giggles and answers, "Didn't you recognize my voice when I said 'hello'?"

(c) Replies, "This is Dotty. Who's calling, please?"

17. There's no usher to help Dan and Pat find seats at the movies, so Dan:

(a) Goes down the aisle first, letting Pat follow him — and then lets her sit down first when he locates seats.

(b) Scouts around alone, and motions for Pat to join him when he finds seats.

(c) Leaves Pat and hunts for the usher to find seats for them.

ANSWERS

1-b.

2-a. Gentlemen! Just think of all the girls who struggled with you when you were first learning to dance!

3-b.

4-b. People do have last names, so let's be formal about introductions and keep those surnames on the record.

5-c. It's good old-fashioned hospitality — and not forwardness — to take the initiative in being cordial to newcomers.

6-b. The object of Ken's admiration will be far more impressed if he goes to the trouble of finding a mutual friend to do the introductory honors.

7-a.

8-b. Why spoil a perfectly good date by provoking an argument?

9-b. It's only fair for Sally to share the table with the boys, and to share the boys with Norma.

10-a. Although most etiquette books advise that the boy walk near the curb,

it's more *sensible* for him to divide himself between both girls. Otherwise, the inside girl might find herself outside the conversation!

11-c. It's bad business to sing the blues; and it's sillier still to give people cause to sneer "Sour grapes."

12-c.

13-c. Girls value their family's opinions — so wise fellows see to it that they're on the right side of the entire family circle.

14-a.

15-b. Since boys have parents too, no girl need feel shy about saying that she must have her mother's consent.

16-c. It's good telephone tactics — and good sense — to straighten out identities before launching your conversation.

17-a. But if there is an usher, Adele walks directly behind him, and Peter follows her.

What's your

WHO WANTS TO KNOW? You do!

You'd like to know why the girl who was so enthusiastic is suddenly giving you the busy signal, why Larry never drops by for an evening with you and Woody Herman any more, or why the light of your math class has never even noticed that you're tangling with tangents, too.

The self-analysis charts on these pages are designed to help you spot any weak links in your personality. Give yourself a critical onceover. And don't be glum if you don't get a perfect score. These tests weren't designed for boys or girls who are *already* Ideal Dates. (a rare species infrequently encountered on this planet).

Each "yes" answer counts one point. Some questions have several parts. If you think you deserve half credit on a two-part question, score yourself accordingly. Where you're uncertain of an answer, *don't* give yourself the benefit of the doubt. The boy in the stag line at the Junior Prom next spring may not—and if you kid yourself now, it'll be too late to impress him then!

MANNERS MATTER

NO YES

1. Are you as courteous to your mother as to your boy friend's mother? as friendly to your dad's friends as to your gang? as gracious when a "droop" asks you to dance as when your dream man does? _____
2. Are you usually ready when your date arrives? _____
3. When you run into some of your friends on a date do you always introduce your escort? _____
4. Do you always refuse to break a date with "good old Ted" when a fancier invitation turns up? _____
5. Are your voice and actions usually as lady-like as your appearance? _____
6. Do you always resist the temptation to powder your nose or comb your hair in public? _____
7. Does your date get your main attention at a party when there are more attractive boys present? _____
8. Do you save handholding and limpid looks for *private* sessions with your o.a.o.? _____

CONVERSATION PIECE

NO YES

1. When someone mentions Bill Lawrence, Peggy Ann Garner, Lou Boudreau, Norman Rockwell, or Dean Acheson, do you: (a) know who they're talking about? (b) have something to add to the subject? _____
2. Can you talk as easily with teachers, parents, or your boy friend's kid sister as you can with your own crowd? _____
3. When Sandy's paying your bus fare, do you resist any temptation to hint about all the dates you've had with Harry, Dick and Tom? _____
4. Do the boys you date enjoy a discussion on your back porch as much as parking in the moonlight? Do you? _____
5. Can you put a shy boy at ease? _____
6. At a party, do you go out of your way to talk with people you don't know? _____
7. Are you a good listener even when the topic of conversation leaves you cold? _____

GETTING ALONG WITH PEOPLE

NO YES

1. Do you enjoy being with your family and feel they understand you pretty well? _____
2. Do you like working on group projects? Are you as good at taking suggestions as making them? _____
3. Can you take a joke? accept a compliment without blushing? or criticism without getting mad? _____
4. Do you value your friendships with girls as much as those with boys? Would you refuse to break a date with a girl to accept one with a boy? Do you refrain from making plays for another girl's boy? _____
5. Do you rarely quarrel with the boys you date? Are you quick to make up a spat with a friend? _____
6. Do you usually have a good time at parties? _____
7. Do you like almost everyone in your class? _____
8. Can a boy date you three times without your trying to make this relationship into a Great Romance? _____
9. Do you always resist the temptation to gossip? _____
10. Are you considerate of a boy's wallet? _____

JUST LOOKING

NO YES

1. Do you follow the bath-a-day, shampoo-a-week routine? _____
2. Can you proudly boast that your slip never (*well, hardly ever*) shows? Can you plead "not guilty" to grimy collar lines or unshined shoes? _____
3. Is the way you wear your hair now the result of analyzing your face and features? _____
4. Do you know enough about color, fabrics and style to buy your own clothes on a *limited* budget? _____
5. Do you rarely need to apologize for your appearance when you have unexpected callers? _____
6. At a party, do you forget what you have on? _____
7. Can your make-up be counted on not to inspire wisecracks from the opposite sex? _____
8. Are you proud of your posture? _____
9. Are "crisp" and "fresh" good adjectives to describe your general appearance? _____

YOURS TRULY

NO YES

1. Can you spend an evening by yourself without being bored? _____
2. Do you have definite opinions and ideas of your own that don't change to fit the mood and opinions of every boy you date? _____
3. Can you say a graceful "no" to a parking party, a cigarette, or cocktail that you don't want? _____
4. Can you play at least one sport well? _____
5. Do you read *at least* one newspaper a day, one magazine a week, and two or three books a month? _____
6. Do you have more than a lukewarm interest in art, music, drama, literature, or the dance? _____
7. Do you take seriously what health books say about diet and sleep having a lot to do with pep? _____
8. Can you turn down a date in order to study for a history exam you'd like a good grade in? _____
9. Do you finish most projects you start? _____

date rating?

BOYS

HAPPY TALK	NO	YES	FRIENDS AND FAMILY DEPT.	NO	YES
1. If a girl's interest strays from baseball or jet propulsion, your specialties, can you make "happy talk" on <i>at least</i> six other subjects?			1. Are you proud of your home and your family?		
2. Do you think most girls are capable of serious conversation, and are you usually interested in their opinions?			2. When you promise to do something, can you be relied upon to do it?		
3. When with a group of people, do you take the initiative in throwing fuel on a dying conversation?			3. When you're in a moonlight mood (on a first date or the fifteenth) and your date's not, can you take "no" for an answer without getting peeved?		
4. Are the evenings you spend in your g.f.'s living room or just talking a walk as much fun as dates when you go bowling or to the movies?			4. Can you apologize when you're in the wrong?		
5. Do you frequently have the feeling that your date is so interested in what you are saying that she wouldn't even see Alan Ladd if he walked by?			5. Do you have as much fun on a double date as you do when you're alone with your girl?		
6. Do you have the knack of drawing other people out to talk about their interests?			6. Do you ask girls a few days ahead for casual dates? at least two weeks ahead for a formal dance?		
7. Can you tell a joke?			7. Are you quick to congratulate your friends on their achievements?		
			8. Do you squelch impulses to kiss and tell?		
			9. Have you learned how to be a "good joe" without going against your own convictions?		
			10. Can the girl you like best go out with another boy without your feeling jealous or grouchy?		

EASY ON THE EYES	NO	YES	YOU!—WHO? WHAT? AND WHY?	NO	YES
1. Is a daily tub-and-scrub a "must" with you?			1. Are you in as good physical condition as you'd like to be?		
2. Do you pay regular visits to the barber shop without being bribed by your family?			2. Do you prefer playing some sport medium-well to watching big-league stars from the grandstand?		
3. Hands up! Are your hands and fingernails right this minute clean enough to shake hands with your girl's mother?			3. Do you go out of your way to read books on subjects you know nothing about?		
4. Do you know how to remove spots and replace creases in trousers?			4. Do you qualify as an "amateur expert" on at least one subject—be-bop, aerodynamics, or Ellery Queen mysteries?		
5. Has your favorite sweater been cleaned or washed within the last month?			5. Are you a fairly good dancer?		
6. Does your plot for a date include a color scheme (tie-sock-and-shirt combinations that don't make your sisters groan)?			6. Do you mind being the only one in a crowd to say "no"?		
7. Has your girl frequently told you that <i>you</i> look "wonderful tonight!"—or has she ever complimented you on a new sports jacket or particular tie?			7. Do you frequently come up with original ideas?		
8. Do you honestly think the adjective "clean-cut" could be generally applied to your appearance?			8. Do you ever sit down just to think (not <i>day-dream</i>) about life and your destination in life?		
			9. Do you know how to budget your time and money so that you accomplish most things you want to do?		
			10. Would you work your way through college?		

METHOD IN YOUR MANNERS	NO	YES	WHAT'S THE SCORE?
1. Can you toss off a little chivalry—helping a girl on and off with her coat, into cars, etc.—without feeling like a "sissy"?			Count the number of "yes" answers you've checked. A score below 25 means your engine's not hitting on all cylinders. Study those "no" answers. They should give you a clue as to why Gary never called back or why Janice is always busy.
2. When you don't know the etiquette for special occasions, such as teas or proms or banquets, do you look up the rules instead of bumbling through?			If you count more than four "no" answers in any one category, that's one course in this curriculum that you're flunking. Better give it some special attention.
3. Do you always thank your hostess after a party? write "bread and butter" letters promptly?			Scores between 25 and 35 mean you're definitely datable, that you can handle most people and most situations. There are still a few boys whose interest is hard to hold or a few girls who won't give you a tumble. However, you're learning. Time and practice will do the rest.
4. Can you make introductions smoothly?			If you score over 35, consider yourself a mighty smooth character. But why stop trying now? Anyone who has learned so many of the answers could so easily become a boy or girl who knows <i>all</i> the answers.
5. Do you always rise when adults enter a room?			Anyone with a score over 40 can throw away this book and dial any number in the phone book!
6. Are you as nice to plain girls as prom queens?			
7. Do you call for your date promptly and get her home at whatever deadline she names?			
8. Do you and your gang know how to have a good time without becoming "noisy" in public?			
9. In a restaurant can you give a waiter your order correctly? Are your table manners above reproach?			

Who is Gay Head?

A HIGH SCHOOL newspaper reporter came into the office of SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINES and asked that very question.

"Which one?" countered the office receptionist. "There are two—Gay Head I and Gay Head II."

The reporter blinked, but sensing that two Heads are better than one, replied, "Both. Who are Gay Head I and Gay Head II?"

He found the answers—in person—in the editorial department. After interviewing them both, he came up with the following double-header:

GAY HEAD I

Gay Head I, who originated the "Boy dates Girl" series in *Senior Scholastic*, is Margaret Hauser, now editor of *Practical English*, another of the SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINES. She hails from High Point, N. C., where she was right in the swing of things at H.P.H.S. She played on the girls' basketball team and took part in most of the dramatic and glee club productions. In the senior play she was the "very nervous heroine," since the lightweight hero had to carry her offstage as the grand finale. He made it—much to her relief!

At Salem College, Winston-Salem, N. C., she wrote for the college paper and edited the yearbook. After graduation she attended the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York City, then returned to her home town and landed a job on the local newspaper, writing feature stories and two weekly columns. After two years on this job she joined the SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINES staff. Started as a monthly feature, her "Boy dates Girl" columns soon became a weekly feature by popular request and have sold out three editions in book form. She wrote "Boy dates Girl" and served as feature editor until she stepped into the editorship of *Practical English* in the fall of 1946.



GAY HEAD II

Gay Head II, who took over "Boy dates Girl" and the feature editor's job from Gay Head I, is Jean Fairbanks Merrill. She grew up on a dairy farm near Webster, N. Y., where she hiked and rode horses along the shores of Lake Ontario. At Webster High she edited the yearbook and was secretary of the student council. One of the most successful dances W.H.S. ever had was a March Hare Hop, a Leap Year party she engineered—she found the party plot in a "Boy dates Girl" column by Gay Head I! During summer vacations she climbed on a bike and took off with friends on youth hostel trips.

At Allegheny College, in Meadville, Pa., she wrote for the literary magazine and the newspaper and graduated at the top of her class. While working for her M.A. at Wellesley College, she dashed off a novel and a play which she says were "pretty awful" but "wonderful experience." At least, the novel, which was about teen-agers, helped her to land a job with SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINES in 1945. Still enthusiastic about seeing the world, she heads for the open road as soon as her last spring deadline is met. Last summer she took her bike to Europe and played roving reporter for *Senior Scholastic*.



